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KALA-AZAR UNDER CONTROL

India gears to apply for elimination tag

After 2 years of maintaining case load under 1 in 10,000, India needs one more year under its belt to qualify

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Drone targets Israeli Prime Minister's house

WORLD » PAGE 17

What are the stress factors of our railways?

FAQ » PAGE 15

Sarfaraz, Pant steal the show on fourth day

SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

Welfare cess on online payments

BENGALURU
Labour Minister Santosh Lad said that a 1%-2% 'welfare cess' will be levied on every transaction by online aggregator platforms, and this money will be used to form the gig workers' welfare fund.
» PAGE 7

Gopal Joshi, son arrested

BENGALURU/HUBBALLI
Stepping up investigations into the cheating case against Gopal Joshi, brother of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, the police tracked him and his son, Ajay Joshi, down to Kolhapur in Maharashtra and arrested them. » PAGE 8

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INDIA bloc divides seats for Jharkhand election

JMM, Congress lay claim to 70 of 81 seats; RJD and Left parties left dissatisfied with poor share, exclusion from talks; INDIA bloc taking this election seriously, scrutinising every aspect, says Soren

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The INDIA (Indian National Inclusive, Developmental Alliance) bloc on Saturday announced the sharing of seats for the Jharkhand Assembly election among the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and the Left parties.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, accompanied by Jharkhand Congress incharge Ghulam Ahmad Mir in Ranchi, announced that the JMM and the Congress would share 70 seats between them, and the RJD and Left parties would split the remaining 11.

"Every political party is preparing for the Assembly election, and people are keen to know which party will contest how many seats. We, the INDIA bloc, have taken this election seriously, and every aspect is being scrutinised. In this election, the Left parties are also a part of our alliance," Mr. Soren said.

"At present, we have only decided on the number of seats. Other information regarding exact seats will be shared soon," he said when asked for more details.

The RJD expressed dissatisfaction over the seat-sharing, terming it a "unilateral decision". The Left parties, too, expressed strong disapproval of the seat-sharing formula.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Hemant Soren with Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Tejashwi Yadav and other leaders during a meeting to discuss seat-sharing. PTI

EC orders removal of Acting DGP in Jharkhand

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

With Jharkhand Assembly polls barely a month away, the Election Commission on Saturday directed the State to remove Acting Director-General of Police Anurag Gupta from the post with immediate effect. The move was based on a "history" of complaints against him during previous elections and action taken by EC against him then, sources said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

20 bomb threats in a day; regulator meets airline CEOs

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

On a day when 20 bomb threats were issued to multiple airlines, the aviation security regulator, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), held a meeting with CEOs of various airlines to discuss ways to minimise disruptions from bomb hoaxes.

Saturday marked the sixth consecutive day of airlines receiving such threats.

"The meeting discussed ways to strike a balance between keeping the skies safe as well as to ensure minimum inconvenience to passengers and airlines," said a senior official of the Union Home Ministry.

While most of the threats were made on X, a note warning of a bomb was also found in the lavatory of the Udaipur-Mumbai Vistara flight. More than 50 such threats have been issued since Monday.

Passengers of an IndiGo flight that received a bomb threat exit the Chandigarh airport. PTI

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson, Air India Express CEO Aloke Singh and Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan attended the meeting with Director-General of BCAS Zulfiquar Hasan. IndiGo and Akasa Air sent their representatives. The BCAS official has met chief security officers of many airlines and ground handling agencies in the past few days.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Bommai's son picked for Shiggaon seat

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The BJP on Saturday announced candidates for the Assembly bypolls in Karnataka, naming former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's son Bharath Bommai for the Shiggaon seat and the State president of its Scheduled Tribe Morcha, Bangaru Hanumantha, for Sandur seat.

The choice for the contentious Channapatna seat has been kept pending and it is expected to be announced on Sunday, after another round of deliberations between the NDA partners – BJP and JD(S).

BJP leader C.P. Yogeshwar is strongly vying for the ticket. The seat was earlier held by JD (S) leader and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. His son Nikhil Kumaraswamy is in the reckoning for the seat.

Elections will be held on November 13.

ANOTHER REPORT ON » PAGE 8

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A BG-BGE

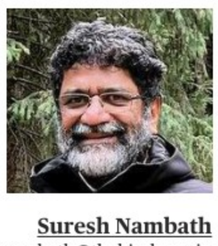
Sweet sale: Xinjiang's famed dried fruits, jams and honeys are among the essential buys for tourists at the bazaar.

Lending rhythm: Xinjiang natives play the traditional instruments in front of the shops, an added attraction.

Cultural confluence: The Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi.

Local produce, global clientele

The Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi evokes the ancient Silk Road by catering to a global clientele and offering an enticing basket of products

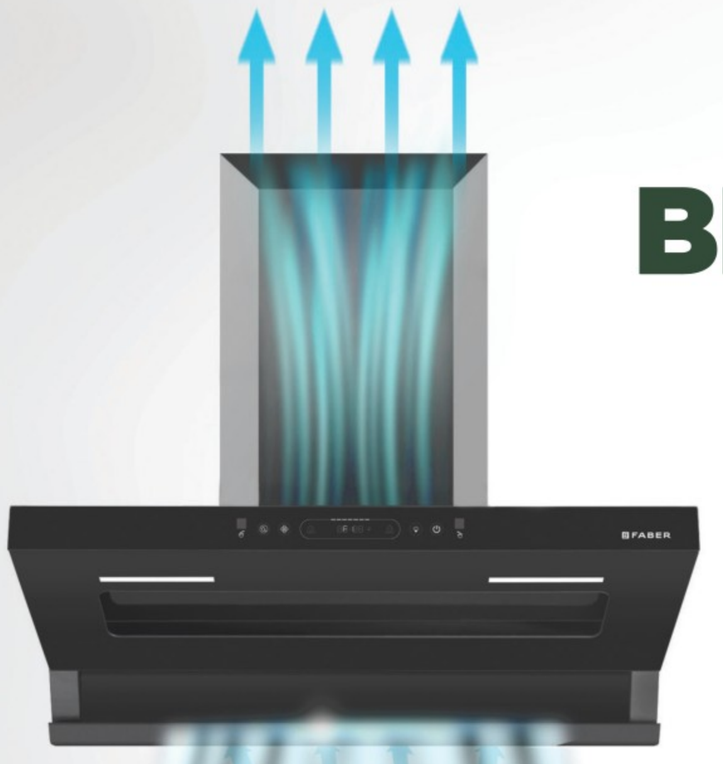


Suresh Nambath
suresh.nambath@thehindu.co.in

The Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi is exceptional both in the variety of the items on sale and the number of foreign tourists it attracts. While open all day, it essentially is a night bazaar, coming to full life from about 6.30 p.m., and offering everything from food and clothes to art and artefacts. Different cultural and economic aspects of the province, which is home to 56 officially recognised ethnic groups with Uyghurs, Han Chinese, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, and Mongolians among them, permeate the structures of the square and the products on display. The bazaar recalls the dominant Islamic culture of the region through the architecture, and the network of commercial routes of the Silk Road. There is a mosque that stands as the centrepiece of the area, and a Silk Road Sightseeing Tower that provides a panoramic view of the city and the mountains of the region. Paintings on each floor of the tower depict the history of the Silk Road, the trade and cultural exchanges across Eurasia for over 500 years till the 15th century. Xinjiang's famed dried fruits and jams and honeys are among the essential buys for tourists. Ethnic musical instruments, including hand-painted tambourines, are available across the walkways and shops. Uyghurs play the traditional instruments in front of the shops, an added attraction.

Opened in 2003, it is the largest bazaar of its kind in China, at about 3,000 shops.

Melting pot: Foreign tourists dancing on the bazaar premises.



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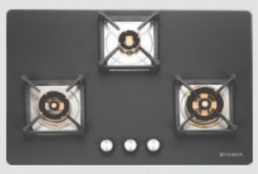

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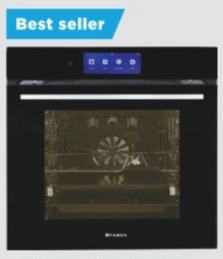

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FBIO 80L 10F GLM-Steamer
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Suction: 1500 m3/hr, 5 year Comprehensive warranty
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Best seller

HOOD CYGNUS IN 3D HC SC FL BK75
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Suction: 1400 m3/hr, 5 year Comprehensive warranty
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MRP - ₹37000 Offer Price - ₹22890

Best seller

HOOD SUNNY IN HC SC FL LG 60
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Best seller

AIR OVEN FAO 25L 15F BK
Oven Cum Air Fryer, 25L Capacity & 15 Autocook Menus
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MRP - ₹34990 Offer Price - ₹12999

FMW INSTACOOK 30C
29L Capacity with grill & convection
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MRP - ₹19990 Offer Price - ₹15500

SPORTZ BLENDER FSB 3in1 Nero
400W Motor with Swirl Hi-Flow Technology
Net Quantity: 1 Number
MRP - ₹5999 Offer Price - ₹2990

Best seller

SLOW JUICER FSJ 200 BK-M
200W DC Motor Slow Juicer Cum Salad Maker
Net Quantity: 1 Number
MRP - ₹19990 Offer Price - ₹12490

Best seller

FWP HEALTH GUARD
RO Water Purifier with Zinc, Copper & Alkaline Minerals
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MRP - ₹21990 Offer Price - ₹14990

Best seller

FAF 4.5 ASBK
4.5L Air Fryer
Net Quantity: 1 Number
MRP - ₹10990 Offer Price - ₹5990

PANINI MAKER FTG 2200W 3in1 SS BK
2200W, 180 degree Adjustable Floating Lid
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MRP - ₹5990 Offer Price - ₹4200

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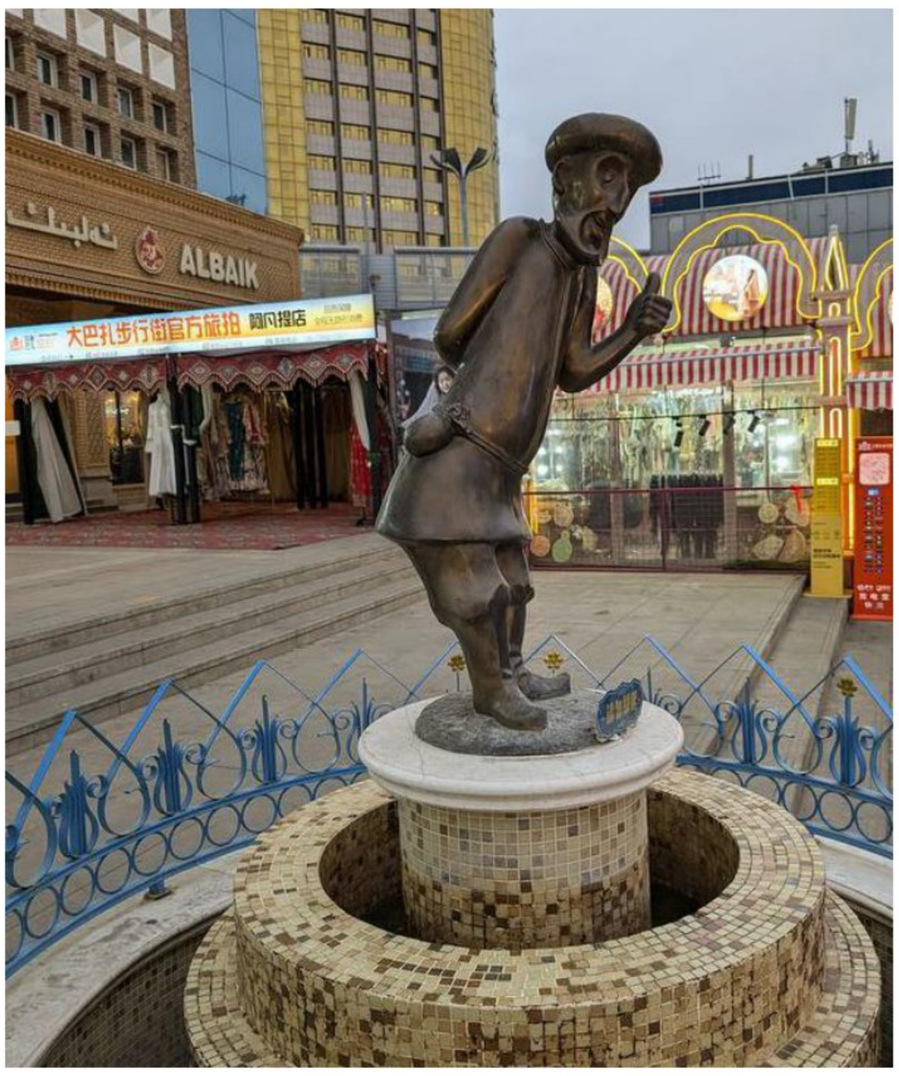
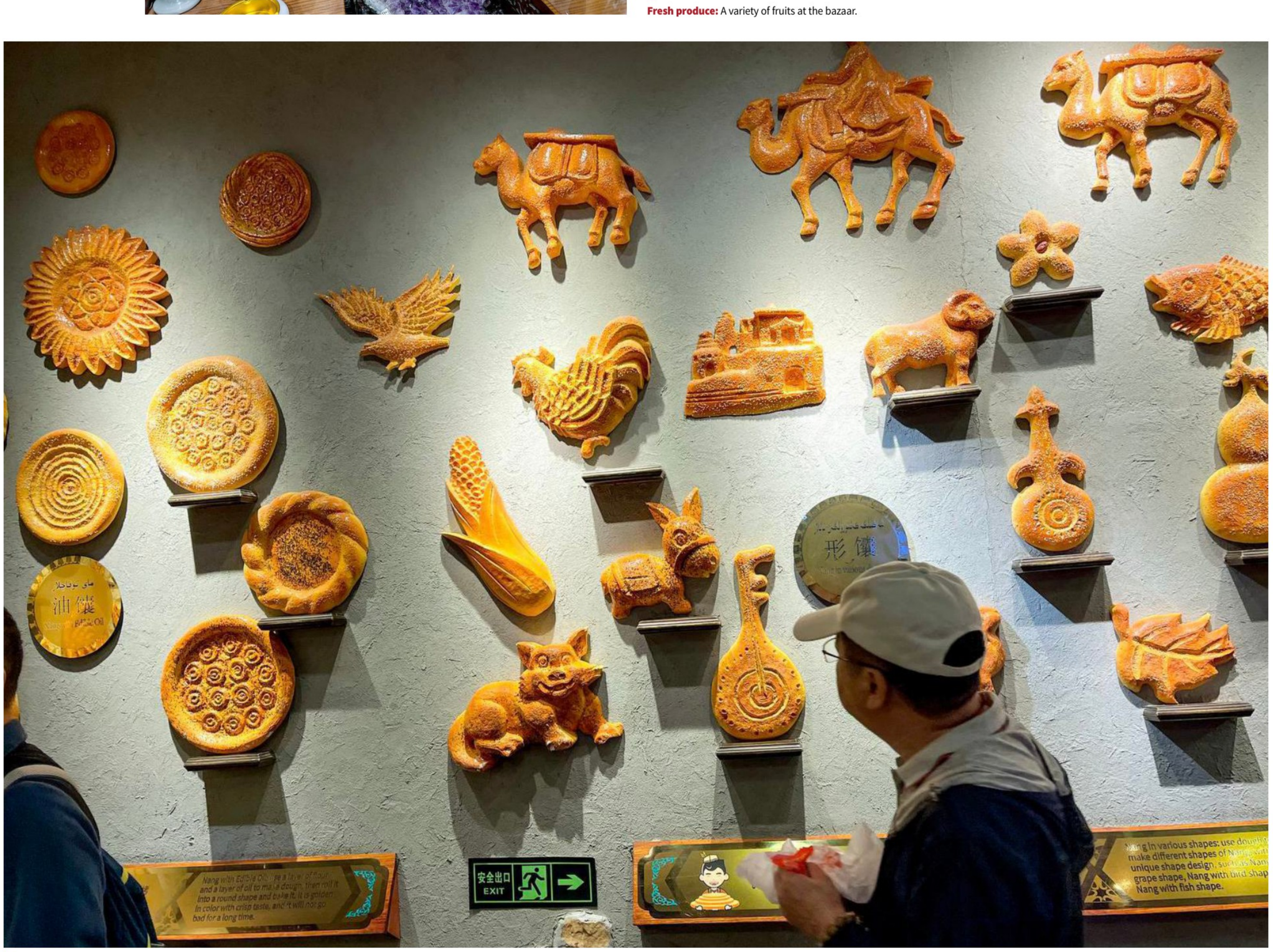
Standing tall: The Silk Road Sightseeing Tower provides a panoramic view of the city and the mountains of the region.



Silent greeting: A statue beckons the buyers.

Glow and glitter: Jade and crystals on display at the bazaar.

Fresh produce: A variety of fruits at the bazaar.



Baked art: Uyghur flatbread, known as *naan* (called *nang* by Han Chinese) and made on tandoor, on display in various shapes on the wall of a shop.

Father strangles inebriated son

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kengeri police have arrested a 64-year-old man, a cook by profession, for allegedly strangling his son after he reportedly came home drunk and created a ruckus in Nagadevanahalli in Kengeri in the wee hours of Saturday.

The deceased, Rajesh, 36, a cab driver, allegedly came home inebriated, created an uproar, broke the glass window pane and kicked the gate. Lingappa woke up and tried to pacify Rajesh, but he allegedly attacked him. Enraged, Lingappa allegedly picked up a wooden plank, assaulted Rajesh and tied his hands with a rope. He later used the same rope to strangle him when he continued to shout and hurl abuses to disturb the neighbourhood, said the police.

The murder came to light when the deceased's mother, Puttamma, called her relative for help, who rushed to the house, but it was too late. The police charged Lingappa for murder, and further investigations are on.

Man hacks wife to death

In another incident, the Bagalur police arrested a 52-year-old man for allegedly murdering his wife in broad daylight over a domestic row near Singahalli dairy on Friday.

The deceased Sudha N. had gone to fetch milk when the accused, Srinivas N, armed with a machete, allegedly followed her and hacked her to death.

After two-day break, rains back in Bengaluru; part of the city flooded again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After two days of respite from heavy rain that left a trail of damages in the city, Bengaluru again received showers on Saturday, leading to disruption in traffic and flooding in a few areas.

People travelling home from offices were stuck in traffic, even as they found it difficult to navigate through the inundated roads in many areas.

According to the IMD, Bengaluru city received 17.4 mm rainfall and HAL 12 mm rain on Saturday till 8.30 p.m. An IMD release said Bengaluru is likely to receive rain and thunderstorm on Sunday.

Sri Sai Layout, which was flooded a couple of days ago, was flooded again on Saturday.

A flooded road near the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

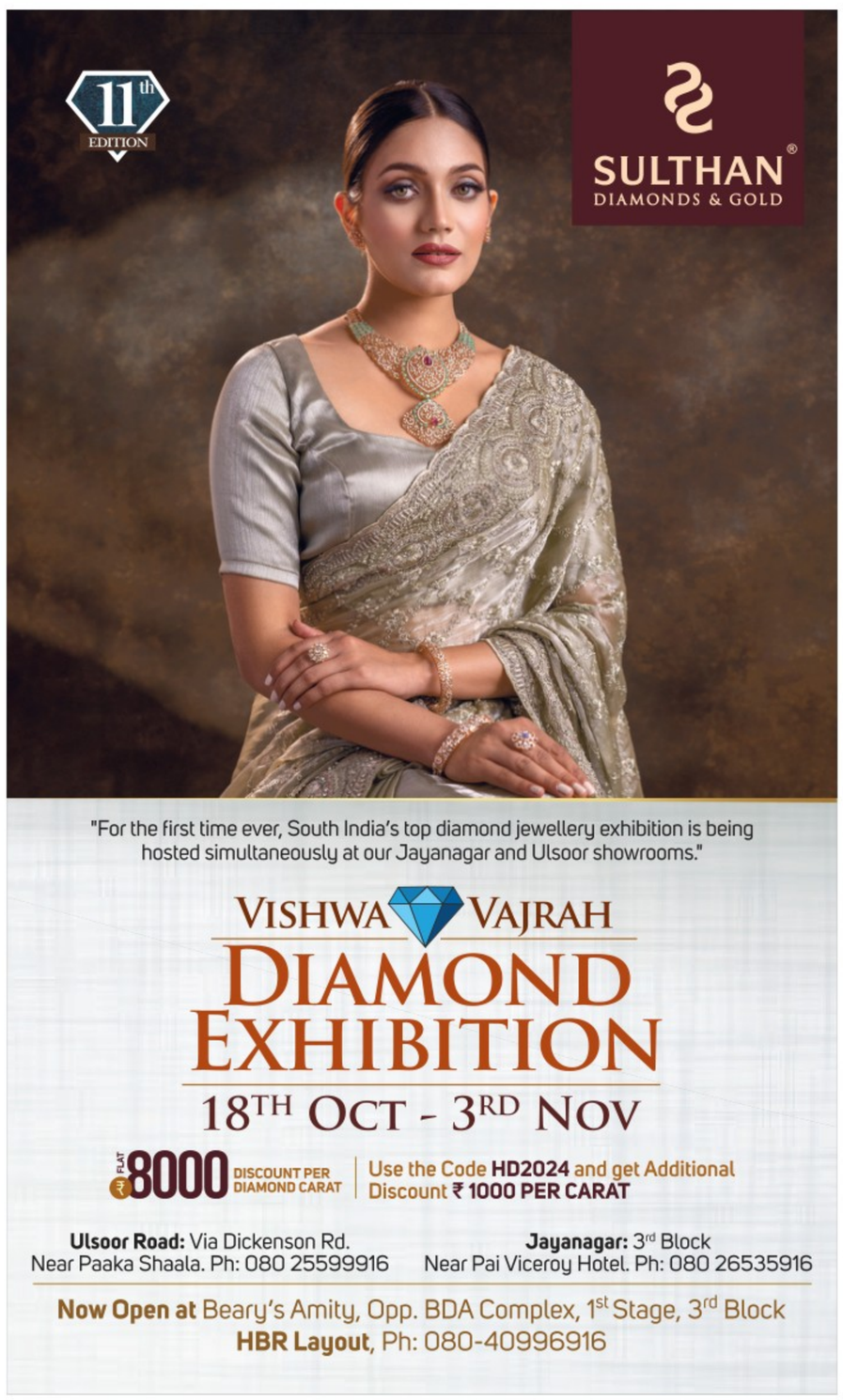
Neelufar Ahmed, a resident, said that the rains arrived just when the layout was returning to normality. She feared that if rains continued water might enter houses again. Motorists, too, were caught off guard. Prithvik Anileth said it took three hours to travel from M.G. Road to Whitefield. Another commuter, Kiran Shetty, said traffic was disrupted in south Bengaluru. A senior BBMP official said in all the zones the officials have been told to be on alert to flood response. The disaster management teams have also been informed to handle the situation.

Garment workers' convention today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Munnede Social Organisation, in association with Sadhana and Samruddi, will jointly host a convention for women garment workers on Sunday. Santosh S. Lad, Minister of Labour, will inaugurate the convention.

The programme will be held at Kondajji Basappa Hall, Bharath Scouts and Guides premises, Palace Road, between 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.



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Minister Eshwar Khandre pushes for green crackers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He appeals to organisations, environmentalists, and elected representatives to create awareness among people, especially children, about the ill effects of firecrackers

Directing officials to enforce rules and promote green crackers strictly, Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Saturday asked them to take an undertaking from shop owners that they will stock and sell only green crackers.

Speaking to pressperson here, the Minister said during the Ganesha festival this year - at a meeting held with the Chief Secretary and all Deputy Commissioners of the State - it was decided that while granting permission, officials should take an undertaking from the owners that they will only stock, transport and sell green crackers. "The district administration should strictly implement this and permission should not be granted to violators from next year," the Minister said.

Pointing out that the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court, in their several judgments, have banned chemical crackers that make more than 125 decibels and emit a lot of smoke, the Minister said permission should be given to light green crackers only from 8 pm to 10 pm and the public should follow this strictly.

He also appealed to organisations, teachers, lecturers, environmentalists and elected representatives to create awareness among people, especially children, about the ill effects of firecrackers and request them to give up firecrackers or use only green firecrackers.

"Chemical and heavy metal crackers, which emit a lot of noise and thick smoke, also cause respiratory problems. Animals and birds are also disturbed by loud firecrackers. So let us ditch the crackers and celebrate the festival of lights in an eco-friendly way," the Minister added.

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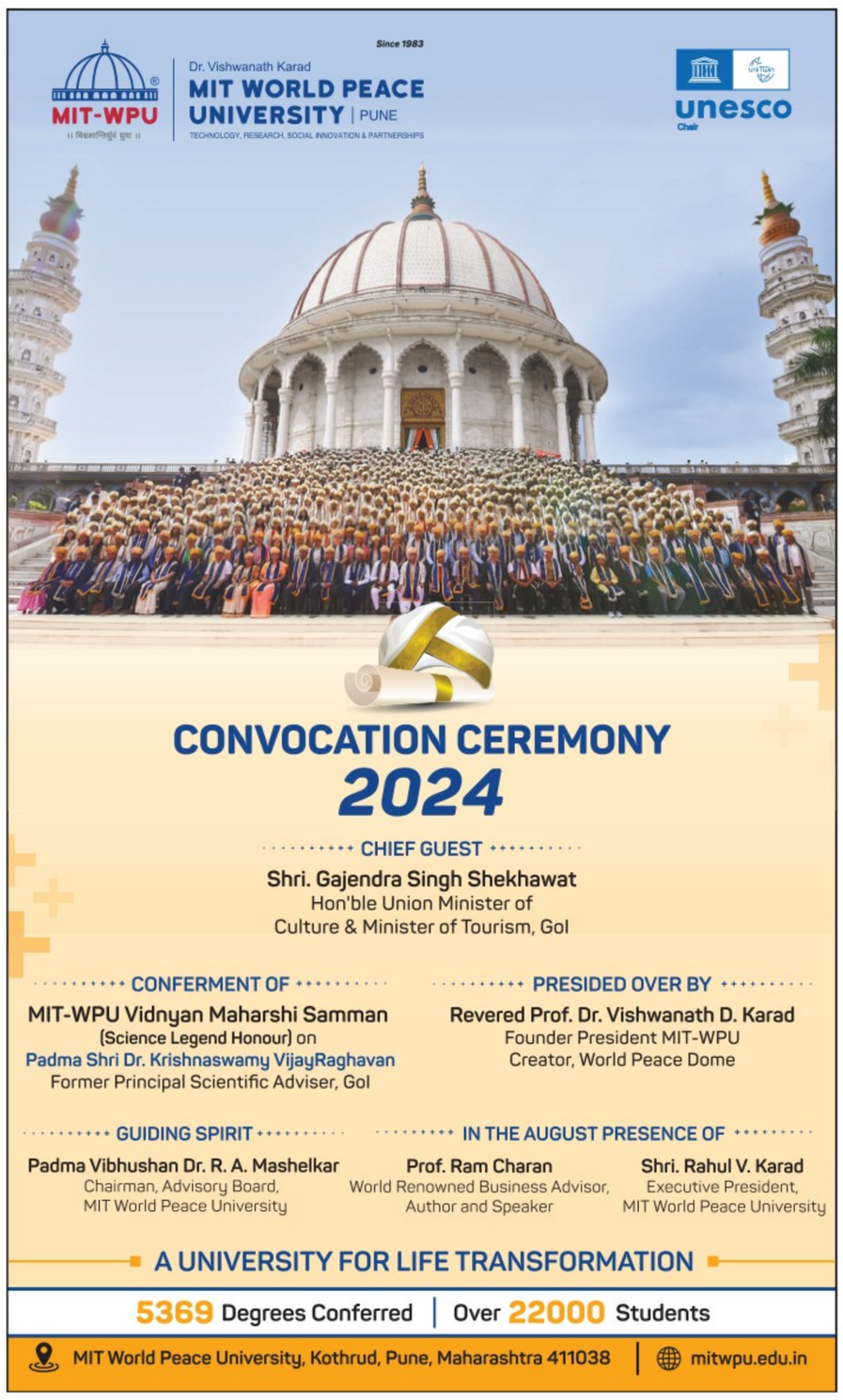
Age	Minimum Age - 45 years and Maximum Age 65 years as on 01.10.2024
Application Fee	₹100/- (inclusive of GST) for SC/ST/ PwBD candidates. ₹ 1000/- (inclusive of GST) for all other Candidates.
Last date of receipt of application	02.11.2024
Eligibility Criteria and Experience	Please visit career page of www.indianbank.in for full details

Place: Chennai
Date: 18/10/2024
Chief General Manager (CDO & CLO)



Grocery baskets get costlier by ₹150-₹200 in festive season

It's not just the prices of pulses and grain that have gone up in retail markets; onion is selling at ₹60-₹80 a kg, tomato at ₹70-₹80 a kg, and potato at ₹55-₹65 a kg

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Grocery baskets of staples this festive month have become costlier by at least ₹150 to ₹200 per household in Bengaluru as the rates of many kitchen essentials, including pulses and grains, have gone up exponentially in the retail markets.

Most customers noticed that in the last fortnight, the prices of many dals went up by at least ₹25 to ₹30 per kg, if not more. "The price of tur dal has suddenly gone up from ₹160 to ₹190 per kg at a retail shop near my house. The prices of many other pulses and grains have also suddenly increased in such a short period. I had to shell out almost ₹200 more than usual for groceries this month," said Surya Kumar, a resident of Kodigehalli.

As of Saturday, the retail price of tur dal was around ₹190-220 per kg, urad dal was ₹150-160 per kg, moong dal around ₹150 per kg and chana dal was around ₹100-110 per kg. While Sona Masuri rice was selling around ₹70-75 per kg, sugar was selling at ₹45-60 per kg.

Interestingly, in the wholesale markets, the prices of all of these items have gone down by around ₹10 per kg. Traders attribute this to the stock clearance that usually happens around this time of the year. "After monsoons, new stock comes into the market, and the demand for the old ones reduces. Hence, as there is a need to clear the old stock quickly, the price naturally goes down a little," explained Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, president of the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) and a food grain merchant.

The price of tur dal in wholesale market was ₹135-165 per kg, urad dal was ₹100-150 per kg, moong dal was ₹100-105 per kg and channa dal was ₹90-100 per kg on October 19. The price of one year old Sona Masuri rice was ₹54-58 per kg and sugar, was ₹41 per kg.

Interestingly, in the wholesale markets, the prices of all of these items have gone down by around ₹10 a kg. FILE PHOTO

When asked about the price difference between wholesale and retail, Mr. Lahoti said, "The retailers always attribute the price difference to their logistical costs. But now, they must revise their prices to balance the market."

Onion, tomato and potato get costlier

Due to weather fluctuations, the prices of essential vegetables like onion, tomato and potato have also gone up.

"The old onion crops from Maharashtra are the best lot available now. They are sold wholesale at ₹54 per kg. The newer crops from Chitradurga, Bagalkote, Belagavi, Hubballi and other parts of Karnataka have lost their shelf lives due to rainfall at the time of harvest. They are about ₹10 cheaper than the Maharashtra variety, but they should be consumed within a couple of days and cannot be stocked up," said B. Ravi Shankar, secretary of Onion Merchants Association of Bengaluru.

He said that until January, the quality of onions from Karnataka might not be very good and could lead to a further price rise. In retail, onions are selling at ₹60-80 per kg. Tomatoes and potatoes, whose supply has also been affected by the rain, are selling at ₹70-80 per kg and ₹55-65 per kg respectively in retail markets.

Flowers might get costly for Deepavali

With the flower-growing regions in and around Bengaluru being lashed by heavy rains in the last few days, the prices of flowers for Deepavali might shoot up, according to experts.

"While 50% of floriculture is conducted in green houses, the other 50% is done in open fields. Hence, 50% of flowers have been affected by rainfall. While the price has not gone up yet, it might get expensive for the upcoming Deepavali festival," said Srikanth Bollapally, director, South India Floriculture Association.

Prices of pulses and grain on October 19

Item	Wholesale (in ₹ per kg)	Retail (in ₹ per kg)
Toor dal	135 – 165	190 - 220
Urad dal	100 – 150	150 - 160
Moong dal	100 – 105	150
Channa dal	90 – 100	100 - 110
Sona masuri rice	54 – 58	70 - 75
Sugar	41	45 - 60

Retail price of vegetables (in ₹ per kg)

Onion:	60 - 80
Tomato:	70 - 80
Potato:	55 - 65

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THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

The new flights will replace Air India's current Bengaluru-London Gatwick route.

Daily Air India Bengaluru-Heathrow flight from October 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Air India has announced it will start daily, non-stop service between Bengaluru and London Heathrow from October 27.

The new flights will replace Air India's currently served Bengaluru-London Gatwick route and increase the frequency between Bengaluru and London from five times weekly to seven times weekly, said a release.

"The non-stop service, to be operated using a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft with 18 flat beds in business class and 238 spacious seats in economy, will add capacity to London Heathrow by 3,584 seats a week, inbound and outbound. Air India currently operates 31x weekly to London Heathrow from Delhi and Mumbai. Air India will continue to operate 12x weekly flights to London Gatwick from four Indian cities, namely Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Goa, and Kochi," the release added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general Public that, our client, **Smt. Padmamma @ Padma. P.,** aged about 61 years, W/o. Sri. Ramaswamy Reddy, residing at Muthanallur Village, Sarjaopura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore – 560099, has lost/misplaced the below mentioned Original Documents pertaining to the survey numbers situated at MUTHANALLUR VILLAGE, SARJAPURA HOBLI, ANEKAL TALUK, BANGALORE URBAN DISTRICT Our client has lodged the Police Complaint in concerned Police station. Any person/s found the Original Deeds mentioned below, shall be connect/contact the undersigned.

SY NO. 153/3, Old Sy No. 153/2

Particulars
1. Original Gift Deed dated 06.12.2018, bearing Document No. ANK- 1-06026/2017-18, measuring about 0- 20 Guntas, with regard to Sy No. 153/3, Old Sy No. 153/2, measuring about 0-20 Guntas, situated at Muthanallur Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.

Dated this 19th day of October 2024, at Bangalore,

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
Advocates and Consultants,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, 2nd Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102, Mobile: 9844092992.

Government of Karnataka — Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

e-mail: zped_cta@yahoo.com zped.cta@gmail.com Ph: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TB/TENDER/2024-25/1669 Date: 15.10.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT ONLY)

On the behalf of governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, chitradurga has invites 3rd party tender for quality and quantity as per Standard tender documents under KMERC. The dates mentioned below, any quarries to contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at this office.

Pre-bid Meeting date and time Date 28.10.2024: Time: 11.30Am Last date for clarification tender Date: 29.10.2024: Time: 11.00Am Last date for Submission the tender Date: 30.10.2024 :Time: 16.00Pm Opening of the Technical Bid Date: 04.11.2024 : Time:16.01Pm Opening of the Financial Bid Date: 05.11.2024 :Time: 16.02Pm

RO.No.318:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department

Room No.8, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Tel: 080-22034069/70 e-mail: director.idd@gmail.com

No: IDD/9/ITS/2024 **Date: 19.10.2024**

Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP)

Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department (IDP&IWTD), Government of Karnataka proposes to appoint Consultancy Services for the following:

Sl. No.	Name of the Services	Tender Number
1	Undertaking Financial Assessment through Innovative Capital Funding in the State.	IDD/2024-25/SE0030 dtd. 19.10.2024

Expression of Interest are invited from the eligible and qualified Consultants for the above. RFP Tender documents, details and additional information may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from **19.10.2024 onwards.**

Sd/-
Senior Programmer, PPP Cell, IDP&IWTD
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CP/2641/MAA/2024-25

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES

Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: Dom/ KAS Training/TENDER/CR-03/2024-25 **Date: 19-10-2024**

Announcement of Short Term Tender

A Short term Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities for providing Pre-Examination training to Minority students for **KPSC/KAS** examinations at Haj Bhavan, Bengaluru for the year 2024-25. Interested & eligible bidders/institutes can apply through e-procurement portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**19.10.2024.**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 150.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.2.25 Lakhs.**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**22.10.2024 at 12:30 p.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**04.11.2024 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**06.11.2024 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**08.11.2024 at 11:30 a.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902/ 080-22535912.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Joint Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2637/MAA/24-25

Directorate of Medical Education

BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Ph: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/07/2024-25 **Date: 18-10-2024**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

e-Tenders are invited for **Purchase of Robotic Equipment to Institute of Nephro Urology, Bengaluru.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 19-10-2024

Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 28-10-2024 at 3.00 PM

Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 18-11-2024 before 4.30 PM

Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 20-11-2024 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

DIPR/CP/2609/Adverto/2024-25

Sd/- Director
Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, (Mahadevapura-Lakes), Room No.306, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.

No: EE/MDP-Lakes/TN-06/2024-25 **Date:19.10.2024**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (Mahadevapura-Lakes) BBMP, Bengaluru invites Tenders for appointing Consultant for the services of Preparation of Detail Project Report for Works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Preparation of Detail Project Report for "Restoration and Comprehensive Development of Panathuru Lake-2 & Sitaram Palya Lake" **Approx Cost of Project: Rs.1500.00 Lakhs, EMD: Rs.37, 500/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Bids must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **04.11.2024** at **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **28.10.2024** at **3:00** pm. (3) Technical Bids will be opened on **05.11.2024** after **4:30** pm. **Sd/- Executive Engineer (Mahadevapura-Lakes)**

INNOVATE KARNATAKA · K-tech

Rajiv Gandhi Entrepreneurship Program (RGEP)

The Call for Applications advertised on 27th September 2024 is hereby closed. A fresh Call for Applications under the Rajiv Gandhi Entrepreneurship Program (RGEP) is now open, following the relaxation of criteria. The Department invites eligible candidates to apply under the revised guidelines.

The Department of EI, IT & Bt, Government of Karnataka invites applications (online mode) from Innovators who have completed 3 year or 4 year-graduation programme (Science/ Engineering stream) in Karnataka for an earlystage funding program (Subsistence grant/Stipend for innovators) that nurtures ideas and innovations to promote innovative endeavors, startups initiated by students or entrepreneurs.

For details about the program and eligibility criteria please visit **https://bit.ly/3BAq5B8**

Last date to submit application form is **30/10/2024 up to 5 pm.**

Link to application form **https://forms.gle/9rjqFirmXAYTx3cS8**

For Further clarifications, please contact:
Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)
BMTC – Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block
4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bengaluru - 560 027
Ph. No.: 080-22231007
Email: **rgep.startupkar@gmail.com**

DIPR/CP/2605/AKAR/2023-24

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR MOVABLE ITEMS

Pursuant to attachment of movable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the movables attached through e-auction on **'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.**

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.

Short description of the Vehicle

Sl. No.	Description of Vehicle	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Variant: SUZUKI INTRUDER VZR 1800BZL6 (Motor Cycle without Number) Engine No. Y506-121562 Chassis No. JS1CA1111G0100441 With petrol as fuel, Blue Colour without Registration No, Year of Mfg-Unknown (Show piece Model)	4,80,000/-	24,000/-	3,000/-

Date of Pre bid Meeting time & Place : **25th of November 2024, 3 pm to 4 pm.**
Place: **O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01**
Date of Inspection Time & Place : **25th of November 2024, 11 am to 2 pm**
Place of Inspection: **M/s. Avanashi Suzuki showroom, KH Road, Bengaluru-560027.**
Last date of Submission of Bid Documents & EMD Submission: **27th of November 2024, till 5pm**
Date & time of E-Auction: **28th of November 2024, 11 am to 1 pm**
For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact **Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority,** 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 18-10-2024

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority (Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2618/Zen/2024-25

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, Dasarahalli Division, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 073.

No.BBMP/EE/DD/Ten/17/2024 -25 Date: 19.10.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System) (Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through Kpp Portal only) website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli division invites tenders, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1.	Drilling and Commissioning of new Borewells in Kammagondanahalli and Surrounding area in Ward No.15, Shettyhalli area Sub Division, Call-2. **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 67.80, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 1.36. (Others).**
2.	Repairs and Maintenance of Borewells and Pipeline works at Kammagondanahalli and surrounding are in Ward No.15, Shettyhalli area Sub Division, Call-2. **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 12.71, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 0.16. (SC).**
3.	Drilling of new Borewells in Chikkasandra and Surrounding area in Ward No.17, T. Dasarahalli Sub Division, Call-2. **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 67.79, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 1.36. (Others).**
4.	Drilling of Borewells and Installation of Motors including accessories in Ward No. 20, 21 & 22 Peenya Industrial area, Peenya Industrial area Sub Division, Call-2. **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 49.46, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 0.99. (Others).**
5.	Providing Pipelines to existing Borewell in Various Location of Hegganahalli Sub Division, in Ward No. 23, 24 & 25, Call-2, **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 12.65, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 0.16. (SC).**
6.	Maintenance of Roads, drains and Footpath works at Defence Colony & Havnoor Layout, M.S. Ramaiah Layout, Muneshwara nagara, Munikondappa Layout, Ashok Nagara Manjunatha Nagara, Bagalagunte Village, MEI Layout, Vishveshwaraiah Layout, Byraveshwara Nagara, Sheshadri Layout, Karekallu (SCP/TSP) & Surrounding area in Ward No.18, Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli Sub Division, Call-6, **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 44.39, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 0.89. (Others).**
7.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath works of Chkkasandra (SCP/TSP), Chikkasandra SC/ST Colony, Soundarya Layout, AGB Layout, Babanna Layout, Anjanadri Layout, Siddedhalli, NHM Layout in Ward No.17, Chikkasandra, Shettyhalli Sub Division, Call-6, **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 44.39, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 0.89. (Others).**
8.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath works of Sanjeevini Nagara, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Stage, Vighneshwara Nagar, Lakshmanna Nagara, Gajanna Nagar, Srigandha Nagar, Munneshwara Nagar, Friends Colony, Maruthi Nagar, Pillappa Industrial area and Nadkerappa Industrial area, Shivananda Nagara (SCP/TSP) in Ward No.25, Sunkadakatte, Hegganahalli Sub Division, Call-6, **(Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 44.39, EMD Amount (₹. in Lakhs): 0.89. (Others).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from : **25.10.2024. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **04.11.2024 at 11:30 a.m.** in office of the Chief Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru-560 073. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **08.11.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on **11.11.2024 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Financial Bids will be opened on **13.11.2024 at 4:30 p.m.** (if Possible). **(6)** This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP **website: www.bbmp.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP.

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WELL ACCOMPLISHED pleasant looking SriVaishnava girl , vegetarian , issueless. mutual separation 42/ 5'6" Living in Australia for 34 years , senior executive in MNC from Upper Middle–class Email: charimoha@gmail.com.

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 37, 155, multicultural US–based professional, yet willing to relocate – to India too – for accomplished, compatible groom. Community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

MALAYSIA CHRISTIAN good looking bride, looking for single unmarried good man for marriage and settle down and work in Malaysia. Man age 35–48 yrs, Middle Class or Poor, No Smoking/No Drinking. Must have valid passport. Whatsapp +601114234902

HINDU ISSUELESS Divorcee 48 MBA, ACS. Seeks Bride Groom CNB. Contact: 9445366062

DOCTOR

DOCTOR 26/165 cms, M.S.(Gen. Surgery II Year) Tamil Muslim Seeks Groom Preferably Doctors from Chennai. Brides parents are both Doctors, Affluent family Contact : 98658 10041

HINDU REDDY Surgeon 33Yrs 165cms Own Practice. Looking for Suitable Groom from well Settled Family in Chennai CNB, Ph– 89256 40111.

Wanted Bridegroom

USA. 27 year old Doctor MBBS from Chennai doing Neurology residency at NewJersy seeks Suitable Doctor Grooms

E-mail ID
drbkesav@gmail.com
Whatsapp:
91-9677026459

ENGINEER

Mudaliar 25/162 Pooradam M A graduate seeks suitable groom Ct 9499015258

ENGLISH

Thiyya 27 M Sc from UK & M Sc from Netherlands. TN Govt Employee working in Chennai seeks same Community Groom below 30 - 9444011212

KANNADA

HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda 30, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175

NRI

BEAUTIFUL, CARING, 29, 170, UK–educated, UAE–based upper–middle–class Catholic. Seeking smart, open–minded, compatible groom. Religion & community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 35, 155, US–educated/based professional (MS, MBA) . Seeking driven, understanding partner with modern views. Religion & community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

TAMIL

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM girl 37, Engineer, seeks qualified, employed, never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

RC, CNB, 34yrs, MBBS, MD, Divorce, well educated family, Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9962791888/ 7094991999

RC CHRISTIAN 27yrs 160cm, M. S,Speech Therapist in USA, Seeks suitable groom working in USA. Ct:9940251659

THE HINDU
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TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN 39yrs BE,MS(USA) Software Engg, having H1B Visa.Seeks suitable BE or MS(USA),SWE/other Professional Bridegroom working in USA/India.Caste/Religion no bar. Contact: +91 9841715417/+91 7397323136.

TAMIL MUSLIM 25/173 MS pursuing Seeks prof qualified groom Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

ADI DRAVIDAR Tamil Christian MBA Bride 34 yrs PSU manager, Chennai 34 yrs divorce mutual No child seeking bridegroom MBA or equal graduation Contact No.8939492699.

CHRISTIAN NADAR Girl, Fair, MBBS, MD, 27y, Seeks Doctor, Abroad or Suitable Rich Ok. Ph: 7824023030

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA startup aged 25. End time message. 8939250457

BORN AGAIN christian, 44yrs/154, MBBS, MD. doctor, seeks christian groom, CT–9500188067

HINDU YADAVA 35/163 BE (ECE) divorcee Wheatish caring clean habit seeks employed/ business groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 9487153988/ 6382962213

HINDU YADAVA Alliance for Tamil Girl 25 Y Aug 99 B.com, pursuing CA. Kanni / Uthiram, F retd SBI Mgr & M HW. Seeks Boy with BE / CA / IT / Govt Job.Call 9443450707, 8220311847

HINDU SC AD (PR) ME pursuing Ph.D (JRF) 29/160, Uthiratadhi / Meenam upper middle class, well Educated native of Coimbatore, seeking qualified Groom preferably Engineer of Age 30-32. CT: 9443401949, 9446352102.

NADAR 33/5'6" MBA working in Chennai Elite Family Seeks qualified Groom working in Cennai. Ct: 9962991972

ELITE MUDALIYAR 30yrs 177cm BE, Well Educated Background. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9962791888/ 7094991999

YADHAVA 34 Yrs Veg. Medical Professional Govt (PSU) Rs.9L PA. Caste no bar in BC. Contact / WhatsApp: 9597459651.

HINDU SC AD, DOB:18.02.1992, 32yrs /158cm, MBA, Accounts Executive, Seeks Suitable Groom & Caste No Bar. Contact 9994757285 / 9952373085

MUDALIAR BRIDE, 34/157 BSc, fair/beautiful, seeks Bangalore based educated groom. Ct: 9482839075

GRAMANI, 24YRS, B.Com, Elite Business family. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9380791999 / 9047192999

RICH MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite Business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 8524891999 / 8939691888

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR Elite Family 33/ 165 Mirugasim, Raghu in Lagnam PG (HR MNC) Seeks IIM/PG Groom, Age 37–38yrs. 9176780777.

CNB 32YRS, Divorce, MS (US), Doctor, well Educated family.Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU NADAR girl, BC, Tamilnadu, ME, age 30, DOB 4/8/1994, Ht 167 cms, wt. 63 kg, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, doing 1st year PhD in IIT Kharagpur, Calcutta upper middle class Seeks any BC, well qualified and settled groom. Ct. 96265 15511

HINDU NADAR girl, BE(Mech), age 25, DOB 12/1998, Ht. 166 cms, Wt 60 kg, Fair, Poosam, Kadagam, MNC in Chennai, 9.5 L/A, Upper middle class Seeks well qualified and settled groom in Chennai. Ct.96265 15511

MBBS MD DR. TN Govt Chennai Hindu Naidu Elite Family fair slim 165 cm 23–02–90 magaram uthiradam 4 seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

DKV/SC 30/167CM fair BE TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er, Govt Employee Ct: 8056143638

THEVAR, 30/164cm, Fair, Civil Servant (UPSC-IRMS), Native: Tirunelveli, Mother: DRO-Revenue Dept. seeks Groom, well educated family with Medical/ Civil Servant/ Successful Entrepreneurs. Caste No Bar from equal community. Ct: 94878 35626

GROOM WANTED 32yrs, Doctor in US, Divorce, CNB, Well Educated Family background Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

BRIDEGROOM WANTED for a 37 years old Hindu Working Divorcee within 41 years Ct: 94431 56344

FOR HINDU Sengunthar Girl, B.E., [ECE] aged 34 years, 156 Cms, Vegetarian, employed, 9LPA, Mirugasrisham [star]. Suitable Groom invited. Caste no bar. Ct: 9840296626

KAMMA NAIDU, Age 27 / Ht 170 CM, BE – Sr.Data Engineer, 18 LPA, Simma / Magam, Raaghu–Kethu Dosham, Seeks groom. Ct– 8870010434

TAMIL

BALIJA GAVARA Naidu Girl 27 MNC Hyderabad looking Groom working Bangalore or Hyderabad. CT: 9994650674, 9944788377.

TAMIL VISWAKARMA (Gold smith) age 26/154 M.Sc Aayilyam, Seeks Bridegroom age below 31. 97460 36999

HASTHAM 36 Fair MCA well settled in chennai seeks Mudaliyar/Pillai profly Qualfd working Groom 8220757159

MUDALIYAR DOCTOR girl 26/172 md paed seeks doctor / professional / business for suitable grooms 9791053568

MUMBAI GIRL Tamil, Hindu, SC, AD (PR), 31/157, MA, seeks suitable boy from same caste / any city– Ph 7738154345.

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, BE, MS (US), Elite business family. Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIAR (CNB): 27/ 170,V.Fair & Beautiful, MBA, Account Manager , MNC, Chennai, 200000 Pm, well settled family, Seeks Groom Eng/ Business– 9841053198, 8939012419

MUDALIAR: 22/V.FAIR, B.Sc. Doing Father Business, Elite Family, Seeks groom– Business/ Doctor– 9962530015

RICH MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, BE, MBA, Elite Family background, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

OFFICER,58, GOVT. Dept Seperated, Looking For Independent Broad Minded, Well Settled Woman 50+ With or Without Issues As a Companion Genuine Person. Call : 9585245551

GROOM WANTED
For a 25 - year - old, 168 cms, 48 kgs, BBA, MA Girl from a Chennai - based affluent Mudaliar Family.
We are looking for a businessman from Mudaliar, Pillai or Chettiar family based in any city.
98430 43284 / 98428 43284

PILLAI PARENTS FROM ELITE FAMILY, WITH BUSINESSES IN CHENNAI AND MIDDLE EAST
Seek alliance for their Daughter, 27 Yrs / 160 / N.Veg, B.Tech / MEM(USA) Ivy League, working in US -Top5, from smart, well educated Grooms from Affluent / Business Family Background.
Contact 8925527453/ kavimalliance@gmail.com

HINDU Tamil 31yrs M.Sc.,(Chem)B.Ed employed as Teacher in chennai public school seeking suitable Bridegroom CNB. Ct: 98401 97371/ 98405 73654

Mudaliyar 26/169cm B.E (CS) Workg IT Manager in Ashok Leyland 12L P.A seeks MS / MBA Groom. 9840340507

Roman Catholic, 31yrs, Kerala girl, Australian Citizen, working as Regional manager, Resident of Chennai. Seeks suitable alliance, well educated, God fearing, upper middle class, Professional Bride groom.Ct: 9962685102

Mudaliar 25/173 MBA Punarpoosam / Mithunam, working in Pvt Bank 6L p.a. seeks well settled groom. 9444249675

24Manai Chettiyar 41yrs/167cm BE SWE MNC Chennai, 25Lac P.A. from Coimbatore, first Marriage looking for a OBC/FC groom Only. Ct: 89394 68628

Rajakula Agamudayar, 29yrs, Sadhayam, Kumba Rasi, Good Looking, Allopathic Doctor seeks Doctor/ Business Bridegroom well Educated with Good Family Background. Ct: 94444 08237

HINDU NADAR, 36/155cm, working 1 Lac/pm, Divorcee with 2 kids (Boy & Girl) seeks well settled Groom. Ct: 93443 52199

HINDU SC (AD) 24/160cm B.sc Maths Teacher in Chennai Seeks Educated groom from good Family. 94442 15959

VANNIYAR PADAYACHI: 30/163 MS - Data Scientist -parents seeks groom working in USA. Ct: 9843017020

MUSLIM GIRL 22/162cm BE(CSE) Very Fair Selected in MNC Chennai Well to do fmly in chennai.9445556810

TELUGU

TELUGU BRAHMIN Girl 29yrs, M. Arch, working in Australia seeks suitable groom. Contact: 81487 77931.

RICH NAIDU 29yrs MBBS, MD Elite business family in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu 26yrs B.Tech Own Hospital in Chennai Elite business family 9710093999/ 9710091999

KAMMA, 23, Architect tall Smart Bride, Very Rich. Seeks Only affluent Business Kamma Grooms, Raghu Kethu. Ct: 7305010505

BALIJA NAIDU, 28 yrs/152cm, Fair, PG, MNC Chennai, Seeks well educated groom Ct: 6380984534

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

SMART, HANDSOME 36, 5'9", MEng (US) , in Big Tech ($400K+), well–to–do S.Indian family. Seeking beautiful, compatible US–based bride. Language/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

DM– DOCTOR (Tamil, Dec–91,185 cm, v.fair, hastham) needs a fair, tall, PG doctor or well qualified bride, about 28 years old from Pillai, mudaliyar, Kongu Vellalar or equal communities.Parents: 9342529547/9072118800

TAMIL IYER Vadama Brahmin, affluent, never married, vegetarian, wheatish, age 46 years, 172 cms height, working in IT sector in senior position, flexible to relocate anywhere in India and Abroad, both parents passed away (only sister settled in UK), seeking compatible bride from a cultured family. Language/Caste no bar. Email: venkyparamankal5@gmail.com

HINDI

PILOT/ ARMY Officer/ MNC, Spinster required, for 54 age Bachelor, Group A GOI Officer, 22 LPA. Ct: 9980428491

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

Hindu-Boy 37 Years, Divorced, Sr. Manager, Bangalore Contact: 7337848936

HINDU GROOM, 48, good looking, software business, high class family, first marriage, second marriage will be accepted. 9645190217

Nair 34 Years, BBA, Executiv - Property Mgmt (JLL), Chennai. seeking suitable Brides. 9940392004

MENON, 51years Never married seeks suitable bride 45 or 46 years. Contact: 94479 07226 / 95001 08129

EZHAVA 27 / 173cms, B.Com, Doing MBA, Businessman, lives in CBE, Father Businessman, well settled, looking for suitable Match. Ct: 9677259892.

NRI

TAMIL HINDU 54 yrs, 173cm BSc, MBA, IT Proff, Australia, Divorce. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp:+61422909407

TAMIL

BE, MS (CSE), 29/180, Thevar, good–looking, High–earning (IT) groom based in Chennai, from a well–settled, affluent family. Seeking a kind, educated, and supportive bride who will encourage his professional aspirations from a family with similar values. Ph:7845821205.

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB.Ct: 9442993042

SAIVA PILLAI 39, Divorcee.BE/MBA, MNC,Bangalore, Seeks First Marriage Bride in Thirunelveli/ Thanjavur Saiva Pillai/ Karkathar Society only.Ct: 8610726024/ 9487986589

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 30 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, BE, VIP, Elite Business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999/ 9047192999

TAMIL

SUITABLE BRAHMIN Bride for Tamil Brahmin Bharadwaja Gothram Mirugaseerisham 33 yrs tall handsome B.E well placed professional in multinational bank now in Pune Contact 9677274461

THEVAR AGAMUDAYAR 1995 born/ 180cm, Maham, Simmam, B.E., MBA, Software Consultant at Accenture, Chennai seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 9489378378

TAMIL IYER, Trivandrum based 34/168, Srivatsam, Pooram, M.Tech Biotech, working MNC Bangalore seeks qualified pref. employed girls from resp. families. 8334815577.

Hindu/Tamil speaking/ 57 years Bridegroom /having Own House Financially well to do Engineer divorced settling in Dindigul from Singapore seeks broadminded Bride 45+ yrs without any encumbrance / children. Caste no bar. Contact +65 82009205 / +91 86103 362394

HINDU AGAMUDAIYAR 29/168 SWD abroad 50 LPA INR seeks bride below 26yrs Contact:9500017873

51YRS, MUDALIAR Hindu, Business, Divorcee. Seeking Any Mudaliar Divorcee / Widower Bride. Ct: 9840776650

INTERCASTE FATHER – Devendra Kula Vellalar, Mother–Brahmin. Son DOB:Oct 1996, Fair, 5.6 Ft, Good Looking, B.E., Working in Autonomous Body under Min. of Finance in Mumbai, 24L PA, Looking for Educated Working Girl: Govt / MNC/IT. Caste No Bar. Contact 9444589256 / 8825538874

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 37/180 BE MS & MBA UK employed in UK. Preferably UK employed bride same community. 9486291986 / 9442910057

BRIDE WANTED Elite Mudaliyar, 27yrs, B.Tech, Very Big Industrialist in Chennai Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

MUDALIYAR BOY 32/174 BE. MBA Er Tafe 1.5L/Month own flat Chennai . Contact 9791172560, 9789056263

MUDALIAR, DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor, Pvt Eng.College, age 51,Magaram, Seeks educated unmarried/widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC (40–45yrs) No expectation Ct:9150799959

MUDALIAR: 29/178, Handsome, B. Tech, LLB, Business, Having own Manufacturing Industry, Chennai,5 Lakhs Pm, Elite Family, Seeks bride Affluent family – 9840866993, 8925019776

Iyer 32 Yrs/ MS/USA /UTHIRADAM-4 / LOHITHAM seeks Iyer Girl. Contact: 9791183943.

Chennai Naidu 28/169 M.E own Business well settled and Educated Family Contact: 9841097110

TAMIL

DEVAR 28, BE, MBA, 176cm, 18Lacs PA Smart Look, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 7200866346/ 8778514465

Well Qualified Brides Tamil Iyengar/ Iyer for MTech Data Eng. 5.11ft/ 1993/ Chithirai/ Bharadwaj. @ Gurgoan. Contact 9300502792.

HINDU, BRAHMIN boy, 40,Punarpoosam, Mithunam, Doctor seeks vegetarian girl. M:9384448388

WANTED BRIDE
God Fearing Rich Family, Vanniyar Padayatchi Settled in Tiruchirappalli invites Proposal for their 2nd Son Age 30, Fair, 175 cm, BE Civil.
Owns a Luxury 4 Star Hotel (Hotel Vijayarani) Opp. Govt. Hospital, Trichy, adorns as MD of the Hotel and also Constructs his Own Apartment (Builder). Besides many Assets.
NO BAD HABITS.
Caste No Bar
Parent Contact
94431 24712

MDS (Prosthodontist) Doctor Successfully running his own Dental Clinic in Chennai, specialized in Implant Treatment and attending various Leading Clinics as consultant. Uthiratathi, Meenam, Height 167cms, seeks same profession bride. Chettiar community. Contact: 98407 93361.

BRAHMIN Iyengar 34/166cm B.Tech working in Bangalore seeks Educated, working Bride from same Caste / Allied caste Mail: padhukrishna4@gmail.com Call: +91 9498052220

IYER BOY Vadula 34 / 170cm MBA., Digital Marketing well settled in Mumbai seeks Bride. Call: 89335 21120 / 98330 18989

TAMIL IYER 53, Divorcee – Short lived marriage. Employed in MNC, NCR. Preferred Brahmin brides from south. Contact –knvteja@yahoo.com / 7827675952

TAMIL

Matrimonial
South Indian, Brahmin groom based at Ahmedabad, 77 born, Height- 5.10" MBA-Finance earning very Decent income from established family Business, seeks suitable vegetarian Brahmin girl from Respectable, Cultured upper middle Class home. (Divorced & Marriage Bureaus need not respond)
M.9638233444

HINDU NAIDU, 29/193cm, US/NC. Staff Engr. MS /H1B visa. Boy seeks Professional Tamil girl in US, able to relocate NC. 9444928128/9444145987

Beri Chettiyar, 37 Years, 163cms. BE, Vegetarian, Teatotaler, Architect in Bank at Abudhabi. Mutual divorce. No issues. Required suitable Bride. FC/OBC preferred, Vegetarian preferred. Contact: 9444453896.

TELUGU

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 34, BE, MBA. Well settled in Chennai seeks Bride any Naidu any Financial Status. Plus two or any degree. Contact: 7401489892.

BALIJA NAIDU boy, 31, 170cm, B.Tech, from Upper middle class, working for a global company in Chennai is looking for a qualified, good looking girl from a decent family. Sub sects no bar. Contact : 9790705800

NAIDU 30, 174 cm Pooram–Simmam M.S (Engg) working in USA seeks bride from same community working/studying in USA, CT.9442026567 or kvr1956@gmail.com

TELUGU YADHAVA (Naidu) Age: 28, B.E. MS. 30 Lakhs per annum (INR) seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 94445 82509

NAIDU 29/180 H.some BE,MS,Design Er,Apple,USA,200000.USD.PA,Well Settled Famly CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Telugu Vannar B.Tech MBA 39yrs,174 cm Aswini, working in Chennai,11Laks PA seeks suitable bride. 98400 80171

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Australia All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. 8248757840

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

DEVAR, 43, 172 cms, PhD, Businessman. Lives in Coimbatore. Parents was retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 34, 183 cms, Double Masters. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

KAMMA NAIDU, 28, 183 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Celebrity. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Kamma Naidu. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 27, 185 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Celebrity. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from Reddy community in India. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 27, 168 cms, B.Arch., Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Preferably Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIYAR, 24, 165 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Salem. Father is a working professional, owns Hospital. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar caste from Kongu region. Contact:6366448343

DEVAR, 25, 159 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Thiruvarur. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Devar or any similar caste from India. Contact:6366448343

ARYA VYSYA, 22, 165 cms, UG. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for well educated match from the same community from Business family background in. South India. Contact: 6366448344

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DOCTOR

DOCTOR GROOM SEEKING BRIDE
Hindu, Kannada, MD in nuclear medicine & MBA in Global Business, in his 30s, living in Canada. 182cm, fair, sports athlete, slim muscular body. Non -Veg, non-smoker. non-drinker. Income: $900,000.00 annual.
Seeking bride 20 to 25, attractive with a kind personality. Any degree (non-IT), willing to settle in Canada after marriage and lead a happy family life. No dowry.
Individuals in the modeling industry and / or in the beauty pageant circuit with traditional Indian values are equally suitable. Agents or Pageant coaches can contact also.
WhatsApp:
1-438-508-7727
(Mother)

NRI

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 30, 175, UK–educated (LSE), Singapore–based businessman. Seeking educated, smart, understanding partner. Religion & community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

TAMIL

MDS DOCTOR, 35, AD Christian, Legally divorced, educated family seeks similar or equal position Bride. Ct: 9994939809

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

SEEKING HINDU Tamil graduate (preferably working) Bride for 34 years old, 172cms, Engineer, working in an IT firm in Australia as a Solution Architect. Caste no bar. Kindly contact9789925584

OBC GIRL for boy 33yrs B.E MBA Central Govt Chennai 90K pm Employed / settled. 9444925350 / 9884172821

BE IIT 188cm Height Mudaliar 32 MNC Hyderabad Sal 75 lacs seeks Bride 160cm above Tamil, Telugu Same/Allied castes Ct: 7382620365

TAMIL

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriya Elite Family Groom 27/173 cm B.E., M.S Employed in MNC, Canada Seeks Professionally Qualified Bride willing to Settle in Canada Ct : 9884296889

Mudaliar 34/174 Chennai seeks Hindu Girl. Contact: 9790877562

AGE 46, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 31yrs, B.Tech, 2.5lakhs/pm, Well Educated Background Ct: 9841329471/ 9380791999

HINDU NADAR, 23 yrs, affluent and industrial family in Tuticorin seeks tall and fair Bride below 22yrs from Tuticorin for their only son. Ct : 9659833343

FAIR, 25 yrs, 5.5 ft, B.E ,govt employee. Seeking B.E/MBA/MCA from Mudaliyar community, working in govt or reputed MNC in Chennai, with a good family background. Contact: 9176265467 / 9444977834

CASTE NO Bar Chennai based Never married Naidu MNC Engineer 48 years seeks Fair Slim Graduate Hindu Girl aged less than 38 years WUP 9440074703 or mail akraja324@gmail.com.

HINDU YADAVA, 58, Govt employed vegetarian seeks suitable vegetarian Bride or Widow. Caste no bar. Send bio-data WhatsApp: 9443157353.

THULUVA VELALAR, Dec 1981, BE, Software Professional seeks suitable match. 9442112385 / 7353847074 (WApp)

PILLAI / MUDALIAR. B.Tech. MBA. HR. IT. 29/167cm. Poorattadhi. N.V. Chennai. Well settled, educated family. Seeks employed girl. 94443 67697

RICH MUDALIYAR, 33yrs, MBA (US), Industrialist in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

NADAR, 36, Barani, M.E. Ph.D, Asso. Proff. Chennai, 70,000/-pm, legally divorced , no kids seeks suitable Bride. Religion No Bar. Ct: 94432 69548

HINDU NADAR 30yrs BE, MS (US) 7.5lakhs/pm Business Family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

TELUGU

HINDU TELUGU Naidu Born Aug 1990 / 165cm Ph.D Scholar smart medium complexion from a Reputed family seeks well educated and settled groom in India born after 1987 Ct:9790908109

GROOM WANTED Rich Kamma Naidu, 26yrs, B.Tech, Elite Industrialist in Chennai. Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

NAIDU 25/160 Fair,Beautiful, B.Tech,P–Mgrr,HCL,1000000.PA,Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

URDU, SHAIK MUSLIM 26/160, M.S Doctor, Good Looking seeks Fair Religious M.D/M.S groom. Ct:8489535580

SM URDU 31/169, MD Doctor, Good Looking, Asst. Prof. in medical college, seeks suitable Fair, Professional groom with PG. Cont : 9585547701

MUSLIM GIRL 22/162cm BE(CSE) Very Fair Selected in MNC Chennai Well to do fmly in chennai.9445556810

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Whatsapp No. send CV / Ct – 98404 11877
Email:csikalyanihospital@rocketmail.com

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

USED CNC Fiber Laser Cutting Machine 2018 make– 2Kw, 4000mm x 2000mm Double Bed with IPG Laser source in excellent working condition in Chennai for sale. WhatsApp: 98407 42321

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1% to 2% welfare cess to be levied on each online transaction

The cess will be levied not on overall product value but on transportation costs incurred by aggregator companies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Labour Minister Santosh Lad has announced that a 1%-2% "welfare cess" will be levied on every transaction by online aggregator platforms, and this money will be used to form the gig workers' welfare fund.

According to the draft of the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2024, which was earlier put out in the public domain, a fund was proposed for the welfare of gig workers. The draft suggested that either a cess per transaction or a fee on the annual turnover of the aggregators would be levied towards this.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad has said the draft Bill will be cleared by the Cabinet and tabled in the legislature during the winter session in Belagavi. FILE PHOTO

Various gig workers' unions have since then been demanding a cess-per-transaction-based model. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Lad said the welfare cess would be levied not on the overall product value but on the transportation costs incurred by the aggregator companies.

"The customer will incur 50% of it and the rest the company," he said.

According to him, forming a welfare fund using a percentage of the annual turnover of the companies would delay the process.

"A gig worker spends their day outside in the traffic, inhales tons of polluted air and faces severe health risks. It's important that this welfare fund is formed at the earliest, and we are taking the necessary measures for it," he said. The Bill seeks to regulate the social security and welfare of platform-based gig workers in the State.

Mr. Lad said the draft Bill would be cleared by the Cabinet and tabled in the legislature during the winter session in Belagavi. The Bill, which was expected to be placed in the monsoon session previously, had met severe opposition from industry bodies.

Mr. Lad's latest announcement also comes close on the heels of Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announcing that a social security framework for gig workers will come into place before the Budget in February 2025 and that it would be legally binding across the country.

State, Australia to collaborate on clean energy, green hydrogen

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Smart Energy Council of Australia to enhance cooperation in clean energy, renewables, green hydrogen, battery energy storage systems, and related sectors.

KREDL will promote and support the integration of Australian technologies into local markets as part of the MoU.

It will also identify suitable partners for technology collaboration in the State and facilitate access to local investment networks and resources for the Council.

"As part of the MoU, the Smart Energy Council will provide expertise and resources to support the scaling of technologies, facilitate connections between Australian companies and Karnataka, and help identify investment opportunities and potential funding sources," said John Grimes, Chief Executive of the Smart Energy Council after signing the MoU.

> This collaboration will strengthen Karnataka's ties with Australian companies and open up new investment opportunities.
>
> **K.J. GEORGE,**
> Energy Minister

For three years

The MoU will remain in effect for three years unless terminated by either party, while it can also be extended further at the consent of KREDL and the Smart Energy Council.

"Karnataka and Australia have signed a memorandum of understanding to advance clean energy and green hydrogen initiatives. This collaboration will strengthen Karnataka's ties with Australian companies and open up new investment opportunities," said Energy Minister K.J. George.

Memorial meet for G.N. Saibaba today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Shramika Shakti, People's Democratic Forum (PDF), People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and other human rights organisations will hold a memorial meet for professor G.N. Saibaba in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Saibaba, a former English professor at Delhi University and a social worker, passed away in Hyderabad on October 12. He was 57.

Speakers at the memorial event include S. Balan, senior advocate, Arvind Narrain, visiting faculty at Azim Premji University and NLSIU, and Shivasundar, an activist and freelance journalist. The event is being organised at Gandhi Bhavana on Kumara Krupa Road at 5 p.m.

Saibaba, who was wheelchair-bound, was arrested on May 19, 2014 in a case pertaining to alleged ties with Maoist organisations. He had been lodged in the Nagpur Central Jail till his release in March 2024.

He had spent a total of 3,592 days in prison, most of them in the isolation 'anda cell' in the Nagpur jail.

Shehnai and vocal concerts today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sapthak, Bangalore, will present two concerts on Sunday. The event will begin with a shehnai recital by Shailesh Bhagawat, Pune. This will be followed by a vocal concert by Saniya Patnakar of Pune. The programme will be held at the Canara Union, 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, from 5 p.m.

Nadasurabhi Cultural Association will present a vocal concert by Kalayanapuram S. Arvind on Sunday. Accompanying him will be Sayee Rakshith on violin, K.U. Jayachandra Rao on mridangam, and Sunaad Anoor on khanjira. The concert will be held at lecture theatre, No. 1, Golden Jubilee Block, St. John's Medical College campus, Koramangala at 4.15 p.m.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, OCT. 20		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:58
RISE	20:31	SET 08:54
MONDAY, OCT. 21		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:58
RISE	21:32	SET 09:59
TUESDAY, OCT. 22		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:57
RISE	22:32	SET 11:01

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	26	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C Day will be comfortable. Few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Student found dead at home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old college student allegedly ended her life after being reprimanded by her father at Chamarajpet on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Shravya D., a BBA student at a private college. She was found dead in her room. She lived with her parents and elder sister.

According to the police, on Friday night, Shravya had a fight with her elder sister over a trivial issue. Fed up with frequent such incidents, the girl's father, Narasimha Murthy, reprimanded her and told her to focus on her studies.

Shravya had told her friends that she was distressed over frequent quarrels with her parents, said the police.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahaya Vani on Ph.: 104 for help)

CID raids residence of ex-Minister Sunil Vallyapur

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Saturday raided the residence of former Minister and MLC Sunil Vallyapur in connection with an alleged misappropriation of funds from Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation.

The team-led by Aslam Basha, Deputy Superintendent of Police (CID), obtained a search warrant from the court and reached Mr. Vallyapur's residence at Santosh Colony in Kalaburagi on Saturday morning. The CID sleuths conducted raids and verified several documents for hours. Mr. Vallyapur and his son Vinay were not at home during the raid.

Criminal Investigation Department officials outside the residence of Sunil Vallyapur, MLC, in Kalaburagi on Saturday. ARUN KULKARNI

According to sources, Mr. Vallyapur allegedly created fake beneficiaries under various schemes meant for the Bhovi-Waddar community and siphoned off a sum of ₹22 crore from Bhovi Development Corporation and transferred the amount to his son Vinay Vallyapur's bank account.

Mr. Vallyapur utilised funds from corporations for establishing a solar plant at Kalagi, which did not take off.

In 2022, two separate cases were registered in Bengaluru and at Kalagi in Kalaburagi district in connection with irregularities in fund utilisation in the Bhovi Development Corporation.

Two-day panchayat raj officers' conclave begins in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-day panchayat raj officers' conclave that began in the city on Saturday brought together key officials from various districts and departments to address essential aspects of rural development, such as water management, sanitation, employment schemes, and technological innovations in governance.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge, who inaugurated the event, said the conclave was aimed at achieving coordination between panchayat raj officers of different districts, who play a major role in the development of the villages and have the same objective and goal of delivering the government's plans to the rural people.

Complex challenges

"We find ourselves at a pivotal moment in our State's development journey. The challenges in rural areas are complex, but so is our determination and innovative spirit. We recognise that it is essential to implement effective measures for improvement in the functioning of the department. This conclave is more than just a meeting; it is a crucible of ideas, a platform for knowledge exchange, and a launchpad for transformative initiatives," the Minister said.

Based on the issues and opinions emerging from the deliberations at the conclave, new ideas will be explored in the way of village development, progress, empowerment, and simplification of programmes, he said.

Speaking at the event, retired State Development Commissioner Chiranjeev Singh said the essence of panchayat raj is to get a bottom-up solution instead of getting decisions from the top and moving down. "Our role as facilitators is the most important thing. We must ensure that voices at the grassroots are heard and financial and administrative powers are devolved to the elected bodies," he said.

KEONICS chairman Sharath Bache Gowda said the groundwork for sustainable initiatives that uplift rural communities and foster inclusive growth is being laid through the conclave.

Basanagouda Patil R. Yatnal

Hate speech: FIR filed against Yatnal

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Vijayapura police have filed an FIR against former Union Minister Basanagouda Patil R. Yatnal following a complaint against him for making hate speech with the intention to disturb peace and communal harmony in society.

Based on the complaint by Municipal Council member Parashuram Baburao Hosamani, the Gandhi Chowk Station Police in Vijayapura have filed the FIR.

Mr. Parashuram, in his complaint, said that during his speech telecast on cable television in Vijayapura on Friday, Mr. Yatnal had addressed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah using derogatory terms and also spoke demeaning words about the Muslim community with an intention to create unrest and damage communal harmony in the city. He added that Mr. Yatnal had also spoken derogatorily against Minister Zameer Ahmed who held a Constitutional post.

Mr. Parashuram sought action against Mr. Yatnal and the organisers of the event held near Siddeshwar Temple in Vijayapura as their words had created an atmosphere of fear in the city and also there were apprehensions of communal violence. Following his complaint, the police registered an FIR.

Health Dept. working on promoting medical tourism: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has said the government will take measures to promote medical tourism in Bengaluru in coordination with private hospitals.

The Minister, who held a meeting with representatives of private hospitals at Arogya Soudha here on Saturday, said more consultations would be held with medical experts from the private sector on the steps to be taken by the government to promote health tourism.

Modern facilities

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, the Minister said people from outside the State and abroad come to Bengaluru in large numbers for treatment.

"People coming here need to be assured of modern healthcare facilities and treatment. In this regard, measures should be taken by the government to certify the quality of treatment in private hospitals. This will create a sense of confidence among patients. Besides, IT city Bengaluru can also be acclaimed as a health city," the Minister said.

Representatives of more than 50 prestigious private hospitals participated in the meeting.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
E-Tender
1. Tender Notice No. DyCECNTBM-03-2024-E506799 Dated 17.10.2024
2. Tender Notice No. DyCECNTBM-04-2024-E506793 Dated 17.10.2024

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram, Chennai 600 045 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work
1.	Proposed 3rd line between Tambaram and Chengalpattu-Proposed construction of S&T Huts, SSE Office, C&W rolling Sheds, Renovation of DYCE/CN/TBM Office at Tambaram and Diversion of CI Main Line pipe from C-well to HLT near Institute and other GLRs.
2.	Chennai Beach- Villupuram Jn. section- Proposed construction of 3.00 m wide Foot Over Bridge with Lift in lieu PSW at LC14 at KM 16/8-10 between St. Thomas Mount and Guindy Railway Stations.

Sl.No	Approximate Cash Value in Rs.	Bid Security/ EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Closing Date
1.	28513730.13	292600.00	Six Months	@15.00 hrs 08.11.2024
2.	31010643.65	305100.00	Six Months	@15.00 hrs 08.11.2024

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram, Chennai 600 045.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction
Tambaram, Chennai-600 045.
For and On behalf of President of India.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 24/SBC/24 of 09-10-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru - Dharmavaram** : Cess repair and widening of formation (UP/DN lines) at isolated locations and construction of RCC drain for a length of 1600m in connection with the work of Cess repair and widening of formation (UP/DN lines) at isolated locations - 39.615 km from 36/250-101/200 Up & dn lines. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later	**Rs. 9,84,29,244/-**
2	**Sub Work-I: Baiyappanahalli - Dharmavaram Section**: Proposed extension of Rd-6 to 580 mtr duly slewing Rd5 and modification in goods circulating area in Doddaballapur station. **Sub Work-II**: Replacement of existing old steel water tank with new OHT (Over head tank) of 2 lakh litre capacity with GLR at Tumakuru Railway station. Maintenance period is 12 months.	**Rs. 6,32,22,794/-**

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 04-11-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/508/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. C518AMCof83ATVMs
Dated: 16-10-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:-

Name of work	Approx. Value
Tender for Annual Maintenance Contract of 83 Nos. of Automatic Ticket Vending Machine (ATVMs) over South Western Railway for the period of 2 years.	Rs. 13,95,158/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:30 Hrs. on 07-11-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Principal Chief Commercial Manager
PUB/509/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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MUDA case: Lokayukta police quiz Raichur MP

ED officials continue their probe at the urban development authority office for the second day

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Raichur Lok Sabha member G. Kumar Naik was questioned by the Lokayukta police in Mysuru on Saturday in connection with the investigation into the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam.

The name of Mr. Naik, who was the former Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru, has surfaced in the case over alleged irregularities in the conversion of the 3 acres and 16 guntas of land that had been bought by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy and gifted to his sister Parvathi.

Mr. Naik was reportedly questioned by the Lokayukta Superintendent of Police T.J. Udesh for about two hours at the latter's office here.

According to sources, Mr. Naik informed the Lokayukta police that the land did not bear any indication of a planned development of layout or trees when he and the then jurisdictional tahsildar inspected the plot of 3 acres and 16 guntas at Kesare on the outskirts of Mysuru in 2005. However, the actual orders on conversion of the piece of land from agricultural to non-agricultural or residential had been passed by his successors.

G. Kumar Naik FILE PHOTO

As the process of denotification of the land had been completed in 1998, MUDA had no authority to develop a layout on the plot of land, let alone allot sites developed on the land.

Mr. Naik is believed to have defended the decision to convert the land from agricultural to non-agricultural as it formed part of the area earmarked for residential purposes in the master plan.

The complainants have alleged that the 3 acres and 16 guntas of land at Kesare had already been acquired by MUDA and the authority had allotted sites in the layout when an application was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru for conversion of the land from agricultural to residential purpose.

Investigation continues

Meanwhile, officials of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), who arrived at the MUDA office on Friday, continued their investigation for the second day on Saturday, examining various records and documents while questioning officials of the authority.

The ED team of around 12 to 15 is escorted by armed security personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), who kept overnight vigil at the MUDA office even after the sleuths left the premises around 11.30 p.m. on Friday.

Sources said the ED team, comprising mostly of officials from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu, on Saturday not only examined documents but also gathered information from senior MUDA officials, including Commissioner A.N. Raghunandan and Secretary Prasanna Kumar.

The probe by ED follows the registration of an Enforcement Case Information Report by it against Mr. Siddaramaiah in the wake of the Lokayukta filing an FIR against him, his wife, Ms. Parvathi, and two others for the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by MUDA, in lieu of 3 acres and 16 guntas of land acquired by the authority.

It's one more son-rise in BJP, as party picks Bharath Bommai for Shiggaon

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/KALABURAGI

The BJP high command's choice of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's son Bharath Bommai for the Shiggaon byelection came amid repeated assertions by the father that he was not interested in fielding his son. He had made statements to this effect even on Saturday evening, hours before the announcement.

For the Sandur Assembly constituency (reserved for ST), the BJP leadership has chosen State president of the party's ST Morcha Bangaru Hanumantha, a first-generation politician. His candidature has surprised many in the party, according to insiders and local leaders.

Reluctant father?

Mr. Basavaraj Bommai had told presspersons in Delhi earlier in the day, before he met party president J.P. Nadda, that "for personal reasons" he had requested the party not to consider his son for the ticket. However, later in the evening, Mr. Bharath Bommai's name was announced.

Bharath Bommai

Bangaru Hanumantha

Mr. Bharath Bommai, 35, is an entrepreneur, who holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Purdue University, U.S., and MBA from Singapore Management University. He has been running several engineering companies since 2014. Despite his father being in politics for a long time, he had stayed away from politics for the most part and his political stint started after Mr. Basavaraj Bommai became the Chief Minister.

The last two election campaigns of his father – the 2023 Assembly polls and the 2024 parliamentary polls – were managed by Mr. Bharath Bommai and that seems to be the reason for the party preferring him for the seat where his father has won four times in a row.

Grassroots worker

On the other hand, Mr. Hanumantha presents a picture of contrast and is seen as a surprise choice. A native of Kudligi taluk of Ballari district, he has been working for the party at the grassroots level for two decades. He served as Kudligi taluk Yuva Morcha president and was appointed as district executive committee member before being made BJP ST Morcha State president.

Hailing from an agricultural family, he also produced and acted in a couple of Kannada films. He was also an aspirant for the 2019 Lok Sabha election ticket from the Ballari seat.

Mr. Hanumantha contested from the Sandur Assembly constituency in 2018 as an Independent and secured 7,191 votes.

Channapatna candidate may be finalised today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP and JD(S), who have kept the announcement of the candidate for the Channapatna Assembly seat byelection pending, are expected to finalise it on Sunday. C.B. Suresh Babu, JD(S) floor leader in the Legislative Assembly, said the BJP had left the choice to the regional party since the seat was earlier held by Union Minister and party president H.D. Kumaraswamy. "It will be a consensus candidate," he said. Nikhil Kumaraswamy is one of the contenders for the seat, which is also being sought by BJP leader C.P. Yogeshwar.

Gopal Joshi and his son arrested in cheating case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HUBBALLI

Stepping up investigations into the cheating case against Gopal Joshi, brother of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, the Basaveshwaranagar police in Bengaluru tracked him and his son, Ajay Joshi, down to Kolhapur in Maharashtra and arrested them.

Ajay Joshi is also an accused in the case. The father and son had taken shelter in the city in Maharashtra after an FIR was registered against them.

The duo, along with two others, had allegedly cheated a former MLA by promising him ticket in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, Sunita Chavan, who is the complainant in the case, stated that Mr. Pralhad Joshi had no role in the case. It may be recalled that Mr. Pralhad Joshi held a press conference in Delhi on Friday to state that he had no contact with his brother for over three decades. Speaking to presspersons at Keshwapur police station in Hubballi on Saturday, where she gave her statement to the Bengaluru police, Ms. Chavan said Gopal Joshi had called and told them that they had a chance of getting BJP ticket and that he would help them in this regard.

A videograb of Gopal Joshi (in white shirt) being escorted out of Keshwapur police station in Hubballi on Saturday.
KIRAN BAKALE

The complainant has said that Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has no role in the case

Case background

The Bengaluru police, after registering the FIR, had arrested one Somashekar Nayak, who had allegedly mediated the deal, and a woman who received the amount posing as the sister of Gopal Joshi. However, Gopal Joshi and his son managed to flee but were eventually tracked down.

The duo was produced before the local court in Kohlapur and moved to Bengaluru. Probe revealed that Somashekar Nayak conspired with the rest, and Vijaya Kumari, posed as Prahlad Joshi's sister using the name Vijayalakshmi Joshi.

The four were named in the FIR registered on October 17 based on a complaint by Ms. Chavan, who is the wife of former Nagthan JD(S) MLA Devanand Phool Singh Chavan.

The case was registered under BNNS sections, including cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy. Sections of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were also invoked.

Dalit leaders meet CM, urge him to implement internal quota among SCs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the Karnataka Madiga Internal Reservation Horata Samiti met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday and urged him to implement internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in accordance with the Supreme Court order on the issue.

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on August 1 this year held that States are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward.

In other States

The samiti pointed out that while Tamil Nadu had already implemented internal reservation, Haryana did it on Friday and Telangana was working on it.

The demand for internal quota has risen on the premise that sub-castes within the SCs are not a homogenised social denomination and there is intra-caste discrimination. The Justice A.J. Sadashiva Commission indicated that the SC 'Right' has got more benefits from reservation in education and employment than the other categories.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah having a meeting with members of the Karnataka Madiga Internal Reservation Horata Samiti in Bengaluru on Saturday.

While legislators and leaders belonging to Banjara (Lambani), Bhovi, Koracha, and Korama communities have been opposed to the internal quota, Madiga community leaders argue that a bulk of the reservation is being cornered by Banjaras and Bhovis.

L. Hanumanthaiah, former Rajya Sabha member, who is a member of the samiti that met the Chief Minister on Saturday, told *The Hindu* that the Chief Minister had agreed to implement internal reservation in consultation with the Cabinet. "He assured us that the issue will be placed in the next Cabinet meeting, likely to be held on October 24, for discussion," Mr. Hanumanthaiah said.

"The Chief Minister assured us that he will also discuss this issue with the Congress high command. After discussion in the Cabinet, the government is likely to form a Cabinet sub-committee to recommend modalities of implementation similar to what was done in Telangana," he said.

To seek EC's nod

The delegation has also urged the Chief Minister to put on hold all appointments to all vacant posts till the internal reservation is implemented. "The Chief Minister has asked the Chief Secretary to get information from Telangana and other States where a similar exercise is under way. The Chief Minister also informed us that following a decision in the Cabinet, the government will seek the Election Commission's permission on implementing the reservation," Mr. Hanumanthaiah added.

S.M. Krishna hospitalised again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nearly two months after he was discharged from hospital, veteran politician and former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, was hospitalised again on Saturday.

According to a statement from Manipal Hospitals, the 92-year-old politician and former External Affairs Minister has been hospitalised for a health check-up and optimisation.

'He is stable'

"He is currently stable and is expected to be discharged on Monday," hospital authorities said.

Mr. Krishna was discharged from the same hospital on August 28 after a four-month stay for treatment of pneumonia and pulmonary congestion. He was in the ICU with adequate support and artificial ventilation till July, after which he was shifted to the ward.

HC imposes curbs on CM's powers as head of Chamundeshwari temple authority

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has restrained the State government and the Chief Minister from taking any action or decision under Sections 16 and 17 of the Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Act, 2024, without the prior permission of the court.

Section 16 empowers the Chief Minister, who is the ex-officio chairperson of the authority under the new Act, to take decisions, without holding a meeting of the authority but by circulation of the subject among the members. Section 17 authorises the chairperson to pass orders in urgent cases without holding a meeting or circulating subject matter among the members but take post-facto approval by placing such orders before the meeting of the authority subsequently. The court said actions under these provisions cannot be undertaken without its prior permission.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the interim order on October 15 on the petition filed by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile royal family of Mysore, who has challenged the constitutional validity of the Act. Meanwhile, the court continued its earlier interim order not to alienate any immovable and movable property belonging to the Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru.

Also, the court recorded the undertaking given on behalf of the State that "the prevailing customs and traditions of the temple will not be modified or interfered with during the pendency of the petition."

However, the court clarified that the pendency of the petition would not preclude the government from framing appropriate Rules under the Act.

Additionally, the court said the authority constituted under the Act is directed to serve notice of any meetings to the petitioner. In the event that the petitioner, despite being duly served with notice, chooses not to attend, the authority is at liberty to take decisions in accordance with the Act.

Petitioner's claims

Ms. Wadiyar, who is a legal descendant of the erstwhile royal family, has contended that the State legislature lacks jurisdiction to enact this law.

It has also been contended that the government could not have enacted the law as a writ appeal filed way back in 2001 by the petitioner's husband [late Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar] is pending for adjudication before a Division Bench of the High Court.

Further hearing on the petition has been adjourned till November 22.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division,
BBMP Complex, 2nd Floor, Laskar Hosur Road,
Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030.

No. EE/BTM/KPPP/08/2024-25 Date: 19.10.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Tender Notification - Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. value of work (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Comprehensive Development of Footpath, Drains and other Improvements works in Parks and Play ground in BTM Layout Assembly Constituency-1st Call.	400.00
	EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 lakh shall be paid in the KPPP portal and the balance amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee)	

Period of completion : **9 months (excluding monsoon season)**

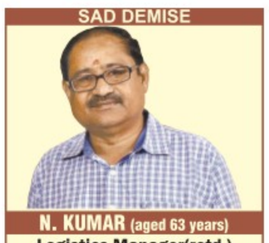
Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 22.10.2024.** **(2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting : **30.10.2024 at 15.00 hrs. in the Office of the Chief Engineer (South), BBMP, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar, 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560010.** **(3)** Last date for submission of tenders through KPP portal : **13.11.2024 upto 16.00 hrs.** **(4)** Date of opening of Technical bids: **15.11.2024 at 16.30 hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, B.T.M. Layout Division

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



N. KUMAR (aged 63 years)
Logistics Manager(retd.)
Madura Coats Pvt. Ltd., Madurai
left for his heavenly abode on 15.10.2024.
Deeply mourned by:
K. Janaki- wife
Venkatraman Kumar - son
C. Sivaranjani- daughter-in-law
G. V. Srijana - grand daughter
and host of relatives & friends
Mobile: 9629155860

Bright Star Withered
B. THIRUPPARKADAL
DOB:22.04.1933 DOD:06.10.2024
We take you as pioneer and wish to follow your footsteps. With love ever in Our memory
Son: T.Bagavathi, DIL: B.Anandhi
Grandchildren:
Arun Bagavathi, Susha Kaul
Seethai Bagavathi, Prem Bhagavathi
Great Grandchildren:
Advay Bagavathi, Yuyutsu Bagavathi

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st YEAR ANNIVERSARY

V.K. NATARAJAN
Our beloved brother.
We miss your kind presence and your infectious laughter.
May your beautiful soul rest in eternal peace
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INBRIEF

Naidu sets 3-year deadline for Amaravati's development

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has set a three-year deadline for completing the development of the greenfield capital city Amaravati at an estimated cost of ₹52,000 crore, while expressing his commitment to transform Visakhapatnam into a financial hub and have a High Court Bench established in Kurnool. Mr. Naidu said the previous government had ruined Amaravati as part of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's vindictive politics.

'BRS leaders opposing HYDRA for fear of losing farmhouses'

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday alleged that the BRS leaders are opposing the State government's Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRA) as they fear that their farmhouses would be demolished. Addressing an event in Hyderabad, he said HYDRA would be like an "elephant goad" against those who have built structures by illegally occupying water bodies and government lands. PTI

Kannur Collector's statement recorded in ADM death case

Joint Commissioner of Land Revenue A. Geetha, who has been tasked with investigating the "sequence of events" leading to the death of former Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Kannur, K. Naveen Babu, recorded the statement of Collector Arun K. Vijayan on Saturday. She also recorded the statements of two Deputy Collectors, employees, and members of the staff council who were present at the farewell meeting for Naveen where he was allegedly humiliated by former district panchayat president P.P. Divya.

Priyanka to file papers for Wayanad bypoll on Oct. 23

The Congress leader is expected to spend a week canvassing; LDF candidate officially begins his campaign; BJP State chief says the byelection will be a verdict against the Opposition INDIA bloc

E.M. Manoj
KALPETTA

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is set to launch her election campaign for the bypoll in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency next week.

The byelection, necessitated after her brother and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi decided to retain the Rae Bareli seat, has attracted considerable attention with the major alliances gearing up for a fierce contest.

Communist Party of India (CPI) veteran leader and Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate Sathyan Mokeri officially kicked off his campaign on Saturday. He asked voters if there was any guarantee that Ms. Vadra would remain in Wayanad if she won.

Battle-ready: LDF leaders welcoming CPI veteran Sathyan Mokeri at Lakkidi in Wayanad district on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to United Democratic Front (UDF) leaders, Ms. Vadra is scheduled to file her nomination on October 23, following a roadshow with Mr. Gandhi. It is expected that she will spend a week in the constituency, campaigning. She may campaign in Chelakkara and Palakkad Assembly constituencies, where also byelections will be held on November 13.

T. Siddique, Kalpetta MLA, said the UDF's constituency-level conventions were completed by Saturday and that panchayat-level conventions would conclude by Tuesday.

BJP confident

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded Navya Haridas from Wayanad constituency.

Its State president K. Surendran said in Palakkad that the byelection would be a verdict against the INDIA bloc.

Flying warriors

Sporty fight: Members of Kairali Kalari Sangam practising ahead of the district-level Kalaripayattu championship competition in Palakkad on Saturday. The competition is being organised by Palakkad District Kalaripayattu Association. K.K. MUSTAFAH

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with gusty winds/lightning likely at isolated places over Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	25.7	Kozhikode	—	35.6	26.5
Ahmedabad	3.4	34.4	26.1	Kurnool	3	32.5	24.0
Aizawl	—	29.5	22.1	Lucknow	—	35.2	20.4
Allahabad	—	36.0	21.4	Madurai	—	33.7	24.6
Bengaluru	0.8	25.7	21.4	Mangaluru	0.6	30.5	24.2
Bhopal	—	33.1	22.0	Mumbai	3	33.7	25.2
Bhubaneswar	—	35.0	25.6	Mysuru	—	27.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	33.1	19.5	New Delhi	—	36.5	20.2
Chennai	—	32.6	25.0	Patna	—	32.5	24.5
Coimbatore	0.3	32.5	23.4	Port Blair	—	29.0	25.3
Dehradun	—	30.8	17.3	Puducherry	2	29.9	24.0
Gangtok	5	19.2	13.5	Pune	0.5	36.1	24.6
Goa	—	31.6	24.6	Raipur	—	33.5	25.7
Guwahati	—	31.2	23.0	Ranchi	—	30.0	21.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	—	24.0	14.0
Hyderabad	—	31.6	23.0	Shimla	—	25.4	14.0
Imphal	15	26.9	17.4	Srinagar	—	26.6	6.8
Jaipur	—	36.4	23.5	Thiruvananthapuram	6	32.2	24.6
Kochi	—	31.0	25.2	Tiruchi	—	32.1	24.0
Kohima	4	20.4	12.8	Vijayawada	14	33.2	25.9
Kolkata	4.6	29.8	24.8	Visakhapatnam	—	33.6	26.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	.23	.38	...207	...114	
Bengaluru	...8	..15	.46	59	67	
Chennai	...5	..12	.27	...116	...111	
Delhi	.25	109	.82	...338	...457	
Hyderabad	.10	..19	.45	43	...149	
Kolkata	...5	..38	.55	40	65	
Lucknow	.15	8	.23	...271	...204	
Mumbai	...2	..46	.34	28	57	
Pune	.49	..77	125	54	64	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..34	.30	21	31	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kaithal, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 372 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

George to represent Karnataka in Cong. poll committee meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Energy Minister K.J. George will represent Karnataka in the crucial two-day meeting of the Congress Election Committee (CEC) that is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from Sunday.

Deliberations at the CEC will focus on candidate selection and election strategies for upcoming Assembly elections in two States, as well as several byelections across the country.

Assembly elections are slated in Maharashtra on November 20 (to be conducted in a single phase) and in Jharkhand in two phases on November 13 and 20.

Byelections

Additionally, byelections will take place in various constituencies, including three key ones in Karnataka on November 13. In Maharashtra, the Congress is contesting as part of a larger alliance, aiming to defeat the current Shiv Sena-BJP coalition led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

With Congress in power in Karnataka, winning the three seats going for the byelection is seen as a significant test of strength for the party.

Man sets girl on fire in Kadapa district for rejecting proposal

The Hindu Bureau
KADAPA

A 16-year-old girl sustained severe burns after a married man allegedly set her ablaze on the outskirts of Badvel town in Kadapa district on Saturday.

According to the police, the girl was walking along the NH-67 abutting a forest, when the accused, Vignesh (28), accosted her. He dragged her into the roadside bushes, before setting her afire by pouring petrol on her. Some villagers rushed to her rescue and put out the flames. She was rushed to the Government Hospital at Badvel and her condition is said to be critical with 80% burns. The district judge recorded her statement at the hospital.

The accused is said to have nursed a grudge against the girl for reportedly spurning his advances.

Her parents informed the police that Vignesh, though married, had targeted their daughter even while she was studying in the Class 8. A few days ago, the accused warned her of dire consequences if she turned down his proposal. Superintendent of Police V. Harshavardhan Raju said four special teams were formed to nab the accused.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu spoke to the district and police authorities and enquired about the incident.

He ordered the officials to extend the best medical care to the victim, and assured her parents of all possible assistance from the State government.

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Guru Punvaanii's "Elegance" Villa Launch

Sanjay Baid: A Visionary in Real Estate's,his company Guru Punvaanii has created a favourable environment for middle-class families to easily purchase affordable plots. The company, which started with selling plots, has now expanded to constructing farmhouses, villas, and industrial sheds. So far, they have completed five projects, including residential plots, villas, farmland plots, industrial plots, and commercial complexes. They have sold a total of 2.8 million square feet of land and are currently working on 22 projects, with plans to sell 6 million square feet over the next three years. Guru Punvaanii is excited to announce the launch of its new project, "Elegance," a premium residential plotted community that introduces a fresh take on modern living, inspired by the theme "Greater Bengaluru, Greater Life." The grand launch will be held on the 9th and 10th of November 2024 at Bhimmenahalli, Bidadi, where potential property owners, real estate enthusiasts, and special guests are invited to witness the unveiling of the model villa and the designed layout. Renowned celebrity Ramesh Aravind, actor, director, screenwriter, and television presenter, will be the chief guest and will grace the event with his presence. Guru Punvaanii's "Elegance" offers an unparalleled living experience, combining thoughtful design, lush landscapes, and modern amenities to create a perfect balance of luxury and sustainability. Situated in the heart of Bidadi and in close proximity to multinational companies like Toyota, Coca-Cola, and Bosch, this residential community offers plots tailored for those seeking to build their dream home in a serene, well-connected environment. Highlights of Guru Punvaanii's Elegance are Climate control technology, Modern Amenities, Strategic Location & Connectivity, Industrial Corridor, Eco-friendly, Secure, and Luxurious Features. During the launch event, guests will have the opportunity to explore the model villa, interact with the development team, and review the available plot sizes and layouts. Exclusive offers, early-bird discounts, gifts, and the chance to participate in a Mega Lucky Draw will be available for those booking their plots at the event.

Jewels of India in Bengaluru

Jewels of India is set to dazzle Bengaluru once again! As the city's oldest and grandest jewellery show since 1999, it's known for bringing together the finest jewellers from across the country. The Jewels of India show in Bengaluru has returned during the festive season, coinciding with the celebrations of Dasara and Diwali, as well as the approaching wedding season. Featuring over 100 top jewelers from across India, the event provides a significant platform for showcasing exquisite jewelry collections. The show was inaugurated by actress Radhika Pandit, alongside notable figures like Dr. T.A. Sharavana, MLC; Dr. Chetankumar Mehta, President of the Jewellers Association Bengaluru; Shri Sureshkumar Ganna, Vice President of the association; Shri Vikram Mehta, the Convener of Jewels of India and Hemant Jain Co Convener Jewles of India. The event started from October 18th ending on 21st at Tripuravasini, Palace Grounds, Bengaluru.

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया BOI
Bank of India
Bengaluru Zone : # 11, 1st Floor, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-09.
T.: 080-2295 9407 / 08 | E.: bengaluru.ARD@bankofindia.co.in
AssetRecovery.Bengaluru@bankofindia.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties Mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Bank of India,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** for recovery of below mentioned amount/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date, Time & EMD amount are mentioned below.

Sl. No	Name & Address of Borrower/s / Guarantor/s / Mortgagor (s)	Description of Immovable Property With Known Encumberances	Branch Name Account No; Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price EMD Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection Time
1.	**Mr. Kalairaj M (Borrower)** Old No- 163/1, New No-11/1, Vanivilas Road, V. V. Puram, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 **Also At :** Flat No-202, 1st Floor, V S Vaishnavi Hevens, Municipal No-2530, Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560055	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Flat No. - 202, admeasuring 1425 sq.ft, 3BHK, situated at 1st Floor of the building known as "**V. S. VAISHANAVI HEAVENS**" Apartment with one covered Car parking space in stilt floor and undivided share of 285.60 sq.ft land in BDA Site No.2530, formed by the Bangalore Development Authority at Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore, presently bearing Municipal No. 2530, New PID No. 181-W0266-10 (Old PID No. 55-356-2530), situated at Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.55 of Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West (12.20+17.30)/2 Meters and North to South 18.00 Meters, admeasuring 265.50 Sq. Mtrs. **The Boundaries of the flat East by -** Common Passage **West by -** Set Back **North by -** Staircase & Flat No.201 **South by -** Set Back & Road **The Boundaries of the land: East by -** Property Bearing No. 2529 **West by -** C.A. Area **North by -** Property Bearing No. 2542 & 2541 **South by -** Road	**Branch : Asset Recovery Branch** **A/C No: 842375110000240 for recovery of Rs.59,34,777/-** (Rupees Fifty-Nine Lakhs Thirty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Seven) + interest @ 9.55 % p.a. compounded with monthly rests from 01-04-2021 with costs and other charges	25-11-2024 between 11.00 am to 05.00 pm	**Reserve price:** Rs.58,70,000/- **EMD :** Rs.5,87,000/-	Physical	10.00 AM To 4.00 PM Contact : Mr. Amit Kumar +91 98504 77529
2.	**Mr. Vardaraja S K** No. 7/37, Sri Vara, Shakthi nagar Mahashakthi road, Behind RTO Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka Pin-560019 **Also At :** No 6/3 ,1st floor, Padma Palace Plot no 6, Ward no 111, Bride street Langford town , Bengaluru Karnataka-560025	All that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment (Flat) bearing No- 6/3, having super built up area 1400 sq.ft (1250 sq.ft of built up area) on the southern side of first floor in the building known as "Padma Palace" along with one car parking in the ground floor and undivided share of land in extent of 454 Square feet and the apartment's RCC roofing, vitrified flooring, brick wall including other amenities provided to the entire apartment constructed which is constructed over the residential plot bearing no.6 (Previously Eastern portion of plot No.6), measuring in all about 3145.06 Sqft, situated at Bride Street, Langford Town, Bangalore-560025 and **bounded on the: East by:** Private property. **West by:** Common passage to ingress and egress and property belonging to legal heirs of late. Smt Chitra Sukumar. **North by:** Property bearing No.6/1 belonging to Sri. Prithivi Jayasurya. **South by:** Private Property.	**Branch : Asset Recovery Branch** **A/C No: 892675110000028, 896260210000021 for recovery of Rs.1,95,88,221.75** (Rupees One Crore Ninety-Five Lakhs Eighty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One Paise Seven Five) + further interest @ 9.10 % p.a and Rs.9,44,656.36 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Forty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six Paisa Three Six) + further Interest @ 9.10 p.a, totalling to Rs.2,05,32,878.11 (Two Crores Five Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Paise One One), compounded with monthly rests from 03-01-2024 with costs and other charges	25-11-2024 between 11.00 am to 05.00 pm	**Reserve price:** Rs.1,43,10,000/- **EMD :** Rs.14,31,000/-	Symbolic	10.00 AM To 4.00 PM Contact : Mr. Amit Kumar +91 9850477529
3.	**Mr. PRATHAP KC** No-9, Behind Rajanna Flour Mill, Kanaka Nagar, JP Nagar, Bangalore - 560078 **Also At :** No 6/2 ,1st floor, Padma Palace Plot no 6, Ward no 111, Bride street Langford town , Bengaluru Karnataka-560025 **Mrs. Hemavathi N** No-9, Behind Rajanna Flour Mill, Kanaka Nagar, JP Nagar, Bangalore - 560078 **Also At :** No 6/2 ,1st floor, Padma Palace Plot no 6, Ward no 111, Bride street Langford town , Bengaluru Karnataka-560025	All the piece and parcel of Residential apartment "Padma palace" Bearing municipal NO 6/2 on the Northern side of the first floor, having 1400 sq. ft of super built up area (1250 sq. ft build-up area) and 454 sq. ft undivided shared built on the property bearing plot no.6 (Previously eastern portion of plot no.6) Situated at Bride Street Langford Town, Bengaluru-560025 **Bounded by: East by:** Private Property **West by:** Common passage to ingress and egress and property belonging to legal Heirs of Late Chithra Sukumar **North by:** Property bearing NO.6/1 belonging to Sri Prithvi Jayasurya **South by:** Private Property	**Branch : Asset Recovery Branch** **A/C No: 842475110000142 for recovery of Rs 1,63,00,447/-** (Rupees One Crore Sixty-Three Lakhs Four Hundred Forty Seven) for account number 842475110000142 compounded with monthly rests from 29-10-2023 with costs and other charges	25-11-2024 between 11.00 am to 05.00 pm	**Reserve price:** Rs.1,43,10,000/- **EMD :** Rs.14,31,000/-	Symbolic	10.00 AM To 4.00 PM Contact : Mr. Amit Kumar +91 9850477529

To the best knowledge and information available with the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property referred above. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the property and to inspect & satisfy them. The auction will be online E-Auction Sale/Bidding and shall be done only through "Online Electronic Bidding" process through the website https://www.ebkray.in For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.ebkray.in or https://www.bankofindia.co.in/tenders. The Authorised Officer has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason. Date & Time of E-auction: **25-11-2024 between 11.00 am to 05.00 pm** (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded)

Date : 19-10-2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Chief Manager & Authorised Officer

From Page One

INDIA bloc divides seats for Jharkhand poll

In 2019 Assembly election, the JMM contested in 43 seats and won 30; the Congress contested in 31 seats and won 16; and the RJD contested in seven seats but won only one.

With the merger of the Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC) into the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML), the Left party, a part of the INDIA bloc in Jharkhand, had demanded more seats. The Bagodar seat is currently represented by the CPI (ML)'s Vinod Kumar Singh, who supports Mr. Soren's government.

Sources said the CPI-ML was eyeing the Dhanwar, Bagodar, Nirsa Sindri, and Jamua seats, where the party held a support base. Similarly, the RJD was eyeing Manika, Bhawnathpur, Garhwa, Jamua, Jarmundi, and Chatra.

Allies dissatisfied

A dissatisfied RJD urged Mr. Soren to reconsider the decision.

"We are here at the request of our leader Tejashwi-*ji*. We had a meeting this morning and it was decided that the RJD has the strength and the mass base. Last time, we contested seven seats because Lalu-*ji* had a big heart – his goal was to oust the BJP, and the goal is the same even today," RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha told media persons in Ranchi.

"We were runners up on five seats. The rest of our alliance partners may not have been runners-up in percentage terms on that many seats. With a heavy heart, I must say that a unilateral decision was taken. We were asked that so-and-so number is given to us. This is not according to the strength of the RJD nor according to the present situation. I will urge our alliance partners to take a decision accordingly," he added.

Mr. Jha said Tejashwi Yadav was present in Ranchi and "despite everyone [from the RJD] being there", they had not been involved in the allyship, which was "painful".

He said that the RJD had identified 15 to 18 seats in different districts where the party was capable of defeating the BJP on its own. Sources said the CPI(ML), which had originally given a list of 12 seats to JMM, was considering contesting solo, in case they were given less than seven seats.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said Mr. Soren's announcement violated the "spirit and decorum" of coalition politics. "The JMM and Congress made the announcement without consulting the other allies. This is not the way to take forward the alliance," he said. "We will do what we will have to do," Mr. Bhattacharya said, when asked if his party would go solo.

CPI general secretary D. Raja, who was also in Ranchi, said the seat-sharing arrangement should be "reasonable". "Leaving 11 seats for the Left parties and the RJD to share is arbitrary. Let us see if the two parties are willing to be more accommodative," he said.

On Friday, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) announced its seat-sharing arrangements, with the BJP keeping 68 seats, the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) contesting in 10 seats, the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) in two seats, and the Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RP) in one seat.

(*With inputs from Sobhana K. Nair*)

EC orders removal of Jharkhand's Acting DGP

For now, the charge of the DGP will be handed over to the senior-most DGP-level officer in the cadre. The State government has been asked to submit a panel of names of senior Indian Police Service officers by the morning of October 21 such that the EC can pick the next DGP.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Gupta was relieved of his duties as ADG (Special Branch), Jharkhand, following allegations of biased conduct made by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. He was reassigned to the resident commissioner's office in Delhi and barred from returning to Jharkhand until the election process was completed, sources said.

During the Rajya Sabha election from Jharkhand in 2016, Mr. Gupta, then an additional DGP, was accused of misusing his authority. The EC had formed an inquiry committee following which a chargesheet was issued to him for departmental inquiry.

Aviation security body meets airline CEOs

"We have been able to ensure that no flight is diverted or delayed because of these threats," the MHA official said. The official added that each threat is analysed threadbare, following which a decision is taken to allow the flight to continue to its destination. Only 10% of the flights were subjected to secondary checks upon the aircraft's arrival at its destination, which included searching the plane and frisking passengers.

Among the 20 flights that got hoax bomb threats on Saturday, six were Vistara flights and seven of IndiGo. Some flights on international routes were either delayed or diverted. These included Vistara's Mumbai to Colombo flight, which was taken to a remote bay on arriving at its destination, delaying its 4 p.m. return to Mumbai by more than five hours. On Friday, Vistara's Delhi to London flight was diverted to Frankfurt.

L-G clears resolution urging Centre to restore Statehood

Omar Abdullah Cabinet passed unanimous resolution for the restoration of Statehood; the Chief Minister will be in New Delhi in coming days to meet PM, Union Ministers to pursue the demand

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha has cleared a resolution passed by the Omar Abdullah Cabinet urging the Centre to restore the Statehood to the Union Territory, officials said on Saturday.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdullah, passed a unanimous resolution for restoration of Statehood in its original form, the government spokesperson said.

Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha greets J&K's Pro-tem Speaker Mubarak Gul after his oath ceremony on Saturday. PTI

'Reclaiming rights'

The restoration of Statehood will be a beginning of a healing process, reclaiming the constitutional rights and protecting identity of people of Jammu and Kashmir, the official statement read.

The Cabinet has authorised the Chief Minister to take up the matter with the Prime Minister and Government of India for restoration of Statehood. Protection of Jammu and Kashmir's unique identity and constitutional rights of the people remains the cornerstone of the newly elected government's policy.

The spokesperson said Mr. Abdullah would be proceeding to New Delhi in the coming days to meet the Prime Minister and Union Ministers in this regard.

The Cabinet also decided to summon the Legislative Assembly at Srinagar on November 4 and advised the Lieutenant-Governor to summon and address the Assembly.

The draft address of the Lieutenant-Governor to the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the first session was also placed before the Council of Ministers, which the Council decided shall be further considered and discussed, the spokesperson added.

Gul takes oath as Pro-tem Speaker

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

Six-time National Conference (NC) MLA Mubarak Gul took oath as the Pro-tem Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Assembly in Srinagar on Saturday.

Mr. Gul was administered the oath of office by Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha at a function held at the Raj Bhavan.

Mr. Gul, who won the Eidgah Assembly seat in Srinagar for the sixth time in the recent polls, was appointed the Pro-tem Speaker on Friday.

He will administer oath to the newly elected members of the Assembly at 2 p.m. on Monday. Mr. Gul served as Speaker of the Assembly of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir from 2013 to 2015.

Question people only during 'earthly' hours, ED directs officials

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Bombay High Court had directed ED to issue directives after a person who was 'detained overnight' filed a petition

The Enforcement Directorate has issued a fresh circular directing its officials or investigating officers (IOs) not to question people called on summons at "unearthly" hours and not keep them waiting for hours at their office.

The technical circular was issued on October 11 after the Bombay High Court directed the federal agency to issue directives in this context as it took up the petition of a person who was summoned by the ED and "detained overnight and interrogated". The High Court found that the 64-year-old petitioner was summoned to the ED office for questioning and was kept waiting post midnight.

Recording of his statement, at unearthly hours, "definitely results in deprivation of a person's sleep, basic human right of an individual", it said. The court said it "disapproved" of such a practice by the agency, and directed it to issue a circular or directive to its IOs regarding the timing and recording of statements of people following the issuance of summons under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

ED issues circular

The ED subsequently informed the court it had issued a fresh technical circular on October 11. The circular said that the authorised officer or IO of the ED "shall be well prepared with copies of documents to be confronted as well as questionnaire to examine the person summoned at appointed date and time".

The circular added that considering the nature of offence, where a person can transfer or conceal the proceeds of crime or destroy digital evidence in a short time, the IO "shall endeavour to conclude the examination of the person summoned expeditiously, ideally on the same day or the following day".

Wanted by FBI, Vikash Yadav was arrested by Delhi Police in kidnap case, released on bail

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vikash Yadav – the former Indian government official charged by U.S. authorities for his alleged role in a foiled plot to murder Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil – was arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell in December 2023 in an unrelated kidnapping and extortion case. He was granted interim bail by a Delhi court in March 2024, and regular bail a month later.

Mr. Yadav was granted interim bail on the grounds that his one-year-old daughter was under treatment for an acute respiratory infection.

Citing Mr. Yadav's bail application, the court said he was an "ex-government employee and [had] clean antecedents".

In its interim bail order, the court noted that the authenticity of the medical documents regarding his daughter's illness had been duly verified and confirmed, and the investigation was complete and the chargesheet filed.

Kidnap and extortion

Mr. Yadav was arrested on December 18, 2023 for allegedly kidnapping a businessman living in Delhi's Rohini area and demanding money in the name of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Along with another man named Abdullah,

Vikash Yadav

Mr. Yadav allegedly pushed the victim into a car and demanded money, forcing him to sign a blank cheque before dropping him near his car. They also threatened him against telling anybody about the incident, the FIR said. The bail

Former government employee has been charged by the U.S. for alleged role in plot to kill Pannun

order said there was no apprehension of threat to any witness in the case.

Mr. Yadav was granted interim bail for six days, till March 28, and was asked to furnish a bail bond of ₹30,000 with a surety of a like amount. His bail was subject to several conditions: not to tamper with evidence, not to leave the National Capital Territory of Delhi, and to give the investigating officer a cellphone number that would be kept active and switched on at all times.

"On completion of the period of interim bail, Vikash Yadav shall surrender before the jail superintendent," the bail order said. According to the Press Trust of India, the court granted regular bail to Mr. Yadav on April 22.

Yadav was arrested under Sections 364A (kidnapping for ransom), 307 (attempted murder) 328 (causing harm to another person using poison), 506 (criminal intimidation), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 392 (robbery), 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property), and 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC.

(With PTI inputs)

2 ITBP men killed in Chhattisgarh Maoist attack

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Two Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel were killed, and two personnel of the Chhattisgarh Police were injured in an IED (improvised explosive device) blast carried out by Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday, the police said.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the police said that a joint team of security personnel – ITBP, Border Security Force (BSF), local police, Bastar Fighters, and District Reserve Guard – were returning from an operation when the blast occurred in a forest area near Kodiliyar.

'Farmers not getting fair price for produce, nor is procurement adequate'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the Assembly election in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, the Congress on Saturday accused the Narendra Modi government of being "anti-farmer" as crops are not being procured and farmers are not getting a fair price for their produce.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post of X, alleged that the policies of the "non-biological Prime Minister" have been anti-farmer since he assumed power in 2014. "Neither is adequate procurement taking place nor are farmers getting fair prices, nor is there any legal guarantee of MSP [minimum support price]," Mr. Ramesh said.

"Our demand – farmers should get legal guarantee of MSP. The support price for soyabean crops of farmers of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh should be fixed at least at ₹6,000. If the support price for this crop is fixed at ₹6,000, then the difference amount should also be deposited in the accounts of those farmers who have already sold their crop for less. Mr. Modi should consider the formality of declaring the support price," party media coordinator Abhay Dubey told presspersons.

The Congress seeks ₹6,000 as the minimum support price for soya bean in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"Mr. Modi said in 2016 that the income of farmers will be doubled by 2022, but the income of farmers has remained at ₹27 per day and the average debt on farmers has become ₹74,000. Narendra Modi said in a rally that 'we are bringing the world's best crop insurance scheme', but the result was that this scheme became a profit-making scheme for private companies," Mr. Dubey alleged.

He said a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee had made a revelation that former Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar was writing letters to the Prime Minister since 2017 to request him to remove goods and service tax on agricultural equipment, but the Centre did not take note.

No force can stop caste census, removal of 50% cap on reservation, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said in Ranchi that the Congress would ensure that the 50% cap on reservation was removed and a nation-wide caste census carried out despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's opposition.

Addressing the 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' at the capital city of poll-bound Jharkhand, Mr. Gandhi said the Constitution was "under attack" from the BJP, which not only has funds but also control over institutions such as the Election Commission, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Income Tax Department, the bureaucracy and the media.

Census a social X-ray

The Opposition leader reiterated that caste census was a medium for getting a social X-ray done but the

Rahul Gandhi

Prime Minister was opposed to it. "However, no force can stop caste census, institutional survey and the removal of the 50% cap on reservation, [it will be done] even without the support of media or judiciary," he said.

Mr. Gandhi also reiterated that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) did not get adequate representation and only three out of top 90 IAS officers were OBCs. He said there were hardly any Dalit or tribal people in key positions or Ministries such as Finance Ministry. "No Dalit, tribal or OBC is in the top management of 250 corporate firms or in key positions in Bollywood," he said.

The Congress leader said that tribal people were only given a symbolic respect not power. He doubled down on the charge saying that President Droupadi Murmu, who is the first Adivasi to assume the office, was not invited to the inauguration of the new Parliament building or to the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya. "If this is not an attack on the Constitution, what else is," he asked.

After the poll dates were announced, this was Mr. Gandhi's first visit to Jharkhand, where the Congress is part of the ruling alliance with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). The State will go to the polls in two phases on November 13 and 20. The JMM-Congress alliance announced that the two parties would contest 70 of the 81 seats in the State. Chief Minister Hemant Soren had a courtesy meeting with Mr. Gandhi.

Mahayuti deal almost final after meet with Amit Shah

Sources say BJP set to get 155-160 seats, Shiv Sena 80-85 and NCP 55; last-minute talks for some 20 seats are going on; the saffron party's first list for polls will be out any moment, says Fadnavis

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Seat-sharing arrangement among constituents of the ruling *Mahayuti* in Maharashtra has almost been finalised after an almost three-hour meeting with Union Home Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Amit Shah in New Delhi till the early hours on Saturday.

"Talks are still going on for over 20 seats," a source told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Shah, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar held the discussion. The BJP is slated to take the lion's share of 155 to 160 seats. The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena will likely get 80 to 85 seats and Ajit Pawar's NCP will contest 50-55.

"The BJP's first list will be out any moment," Mr. Fadnavis said on Saturday.

"The *Mahayuti* seat-sharing talks were positive. They are in the final stage now. In the next two days, a decision about final seat-sharing will be done. Now, the differences are not irreconcilable. There are some differences on 25 to 30 seats. They will get resolved," Mr. Shinde told presspersons in Delhi.

Final stage: Devendra Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar at a press conference in Mumbai earlier this week. EMMANUAL YOGINI

On CM face

Asked about the discussions on the Chief Ministerial face, he said: "We are doing team work. *Mahayuti* government will come back to power. We are confident. Industry, infrastructure, welfare schemes are the backbones of our performance. People will give us the mandate. Mr. Shah has told us that the State should go ahead at the same pace. Development is our agenda."

Sources said a decision on the Chief Minister will be made only after the election results.

"A joint decision will be taken thereafter by the BJP Parliamentary Board, the Shiv Sena and the NCP together," a source told *The Hindu*. The *Mahayuti* has said previously that the current election will be fought under the leadership of Mr. Shinde.

Sources in the Shiv Sena indicated that there was soft posturing about the leadership of Mr. Shinde. "Nobody will be able to talk openly about the Chief Ministerial candidate at this juncture. But it is true that the *Mahayuti* is banking on the popularity of Eknath Shinde as the Chief Minister," a source indicated. He said the three parties were going ahead with a seat-by-seat discussion.

'Some changes'

"While the incumbent seats will go to those parties, some surveys have shown that a few sitting MLAs are not faring well. Due to caste and social engineering factors, some things might change there. The *Mahayuti* has already completed discussions on 232 seats [of a total 288]," he said.

The Assembly elections in Maharashtra will be held on November 20.

Leadership of MVA parties will take the final call on remaining 40 seats: Patole

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Maha Vikas Aghadi, Maharashtra's Opposition coalition, still needs to resolve internal differences regarding almost 40 of the 288 Assembly seats ahead of the November 20 election, State Congress president Nana Patole told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

The seat-sharing committee has completed its work, he said, adding that a final call on the remaining seats will be taken by the high commands of all three major parties in the coalition: the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP).

Mr. Patole is in the eye of a storm, with the Shiv Sena (UBT) threatening to pull the plug on seat-sharing talks if the State Congress chief continues to helm them. Asked about his role in the stalemate, he told *The Hindu*: "I have communicated whatever I had to, to the party high command. I have given them the details about the seat-sharing talks."

The differences had emerged primarily over the seats in Vidarbha, and a few other areas.

Nana Patole

Mr. Patole said the Congress had already let go of many seats in the Konkan region, the coastal Maharashtra belt where the Shiv Sena (UBT) is predominant. "In Vidarbha, we are saying that we will decimate the BJP. We can win almost 50 seats. The BJP comes to power in Maharashtra because of its performance in Vidarbha. We will dent it there and will finish off the BJP in the State," Mr. Patole said.

More seats

"So we had been telling Sena that we want to fight in more seats from that region. We are currently getting 42 to 46 seats. We are looking at getting 50," he said. *The Hindu* has previously reported about Mr. Patole's spats with Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut during the committee's deliberations.

Mr. Patole said that it was now up to the high commands of all the three parties to take the discussion ahead. "Our work is over. The seat-sharing committee has held several meetings, and we have resolved seat-sharing issues in most of the seats. Now, whatever seats remain, the senior leaders will sit and decide about them. It will be our central leadership, Sharad Pawar, and Uddhav Thackeray who will take a call," he said.

Vidarbha is home to 62 of the State's 288 Vidhan Sabha seats. Traditionally, the party which performs well in Vidarbha is the one that forms the government in Mumbai. During the Lok Sabha election earlier this year, the Congress outperformed all other parties in Vidarbha. The Shiv Sena (UBT), however, does not want to give up its traditional strongholds in the region.

Chennithala meets Uddhav, says will fight polls together

T. Ashokamithran
MUMBAI

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will fight elections together, and seat allocations will be finalised in a couple of days, Congress in-charge for the Maharashtra Assembly election Ramesh Chennithala said here on Saturday.

The statement comes a day after seat allocation talks reached a stalemate between Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and State Congress chief Nana Patole.

"There are no differences between us. We will fight the BJP together, unseat this corrupt government, and form our government. We will solve all the issues today and finalise the seat allocation in one or two days. Discussions in alliances are common and are important," Mr. Chennithala said before a meeting between the MVA's allies.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Chennithala met Mr. Thackeray at his residence. "Mr. Thackeray is healthy and so is the MVA. We will fight the elections together," he told presspersons after the meeting.

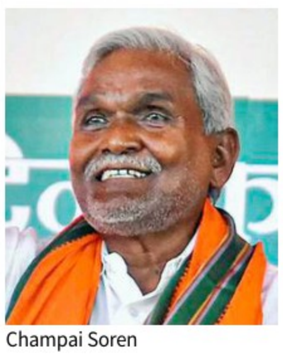
Champai, Sita Soren among 66 candidates named in BJP's first list for Jharkhand polls

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday released the first list of 66 candidates for the Jharkhand Assembly election. The polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20.

BJP State unit president Babulal Marandi has retained his Dhanwar seat, whereas senior leader C.P. Singh managed to hold on to his Ranchi candidature. The Leader of the Opposition in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly, Amar Kumar Bauri, also retained his Chandankiyari seat.

Former Chief Minister Champai Soren, who left the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) to join the BJP, is set to contest from Saraikela, while his son Babulal Soren will contest from Ghatshila.



Champai Soren

Former MP Arjun Munda's wife, Meera Munda, has been given ticket from Potka. Mr. Munda had faced defeat in the Khunti constituency against the Congress's Kalicharan Munda in the Lok Sabha election.

In the National Democratic Alliance seat sharing deal, the BJP got 68 seats in its kitty, whereas the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) received 10, followed by two seats for the Janata Dal(U) and the Union Minister Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) was given a single seat. Announcement on the remaining two seats will be made later.

The list also names Sita Murmu Soren, the daughter-in-law of JMM founder Shibu Soren, from Jamtara. Ahead of the Lok Sabha election, she had quit the JMM to join the BJP. She had contested from Dumka but was defeated.

Out of 66 candidates, the BJP has given ticket to 12 women candidates.

The two seats for which the BJP has not announced its candidates include Barhait represented by Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Tundi occupied by the JMM.

Three sitting MLAs have been dropped by party.

SP wants 12 seats as part of MVA, says Akhilesh

Press Trust of India
DHULE

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has asked for 12 seats as part of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra, party chief Akhilesh Singh Yadav said on Saturday, even as the alliance is yet to declare its seat-sharing arrangement.

Talking to presspersons in Dhule district of north Maharashtra, Mr. Yadav said his party has declared candidates for five seats. Mr. Yadav said the SP was the one that was satisfied with a few seats.

"We have asked for 12 seats (as part of the MVA)," the party chief said, adding that the SP has shared details of the constituencies where it has a strong presence.

The SP's assertion has come at a time when the MVA constituents are in a stalemate over seat-sharing. On Saturday, the SP declared the candidature of Irshad Jahagirdar from Dhule city, making him its fifth candidate so far.

The Samajwadi Party has already declared candidates for five seats for Assembly polls, SP chief says

The party on Friday named Rais Shaikh, MLA, for Bhiwandi East, Riyaz Azmi for Bhiwandi West and Shaan-E-Hind for Malegaon Central. The SP's State president, Abu Asim Azmi, is the MLA for Shivajinagar-Mankhurd. Mr. Yadav addressed rallies in Malegaon on Friday and in Dhule on Saturday,

'Strong candidates'

Mr. Azmi said, "We have declared five candidates so that they [MVA] know that we are strong, or else they will tell us in the meeting that your candidate is not very strong. We have shown that we are asking for seats where we are strong."

He said the Congress has not won the Bhiwandi East seat since 1999.

Mr. Azmi said MVA leaders had spoken to him and assured him about seats. The SP is a constituent of the Opposition INDIA bloc at the national level. The Peasants and Workers Party and the Left parties are also part of the MVA.

BJP names candidates for M.P. bypolls

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

The BJP on Saturday announced candidates for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly bypolls. It has fielded Minister Ramniwas Rawat from Vijaypur and former MP Ramakant Bhargava from Budhni.

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Number of Works : 2 Works, Value of Works (ECV) :Rs. 218.00 Lakhs
Downloading Starting Date : 19-10-2024
Downloading Ending Date : 04-11-2024
Bid submission closing Date : 04-11-2024
Techniqual Qualification Stage : 04-11-2024
Price bid (Commercial Stage) : 06-11-2024
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KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED- E-TENDER NOTICE
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GeM Bid No. GeM/2024/B/5489805 dated 10/10/2024 PAC: Rs. 3,34,80,000/- Last Date: 04.11.2024 04.00 pm
E Tender ID No. 2024_KSEB_696922_1 PAC: Rs. 6,21,38,800/- Last Date: 27.11.2024 05.00 pm
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Nilambur, Malappuram
E Tender ID No.2024_KSEB_697065_1 PAC: Rs. 3,26,31,730/- Last Date: 08.11.2024 04.00 pm
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Generation Circle, Kothamangalam, Ernakulam
E Tender ID No.2024_KSEB_693059_1 Last Date: 26.11.2024 05.00 pm
Tender Extension Notice
O/o the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Chalakudy, Thrissur
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_688985_1 PAC: Rs. 1,90,42,032/- Last Date-: 24.10.2024 04.00 pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_688539_1 PAC: Rs. 1,70,25,323/- Last Date-: 24.10.2024 04.00 pm
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Sl. No.	Enquiry No.	Particulars	Amount put to Tender in Rs. (Excluding GST)
1	BESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT220	Conversion of 11kV Overhead line into Under Ground (UG) cable and Laying of Optic Fibre cable (OFC) along with UG cable wherever necessary in E-12 sub division	15,64,81,002.00
2	BESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT221	Conversion of LT Overhead line into Aerial Bunched (AB) cable at various locations in E-12 sub division	9,37,87,949.00

Bid documents available from: 28.10.2024 onwards. **Last date for submission of Bids:** 28.11.2024 @ 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Technical bids:** 29.11.2024 @ 15:30 Hrs. **Last date for seeking clarifications:** 12.11.2024 @ 17:30 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting:** 13.11.2024 @ 11:00 Hrs. **Venue:** Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Block-II, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001.
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, **KPP portal Help Desk:** Phone No: +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, **E-mail:** support@eprochelpdesk.com. Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during working hours.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE.
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)- Bid Identification No.C.C.E.J.C(R&B)-05/2024-25
No. 3484 Date. 08.10.2024

1. Nature of the Work : ROAD & BRIDGE WORKS
2. Total No. of Works : 05 (Five) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.1.00 Crs. to 7.11 Crs.
4. Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months as per column no.04 of IFB.
5. Cost of Bid Document : Rs.10,000/-
6. Bid Security (EMD) : Rs.1.00 Lac to 7.11 Lac as per column no.06 of IFB
7. Class of Contractor : "B", "A" & "Special" Class as per cl no.05 of TCN & according to Financial Eligibility
8. Date & time of availability of bid Document in the portal. : From 11.00 hours of 22.10.2024 to 17.00 hours of 05.11.2024.
9. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal. : 17.00 hours of 05.11.2024.
10. Opening date of Bid : 10.00 hours of 06.11.2024
11. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in .
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.
Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore.
B-424: OIPR-34108/11/0008/2425

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क्रमांकः 625 दिनांकः 11.10.2024
NIT No.: 06/2024-25
Bids for Construction CJ (JD) & JM Court Bldg. at Kotkasim and Permanent Restoraction work of various CC/BT road under 7 package at Div Kishangarh Bas are invited from interested bidder from 11.10.2024 02:00 PM upto 04.11.2024 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** of the state and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurements is **1985.82/- Lacs.**
NIB No.:- PWD2425A2131
UBN No.:- 1. PWD2425WSOB07927, 2. PWD2425WSOB07928, 3. PWD2425WSOB07929, 4. PWD2425WSOB07930, 5. PWD2425WSOB07931, 6. PWD2425WSOB07932, 7. PWD2425WSOB07933
DIPR/C/9968/2024 Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Khairthal

INBRIEF

Ahead of PM's visit, over 500 hoardings put up in Varanasi

Over 500 hoardings have been put up across Varanasi, the Lok Sabha constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ahead of his visit to the city on Sunday. One of the prominent hoardings, put up by BJP Yuva Morcha district president Aman Sonkar, shows Mr. Modi with 10 hands, each representing various government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Jan Dhan Yojna, and "Make in India". It has become a topic of discussion among people after it was put in the Lanka, Chitaipur and Sarnath areas of the city. Mr. Sonkar said that the hoarding reflects the Prime Minister's commitment to development and the welfare of the people. PTI

Adversaries could 'weaponise' tools, tech: Defence Minister

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday called upon Indian military leaders to think critically to gain a "strategic advantage" in today's ever-evolving geopolitical landscape, and said there was a need to stay prepared to tackle possibility of adversaries "weaponising" tools and technologies. "From drones and autonomous vehicles to artificial intelligence and quantum computing, the technologies shaping modern warfare are evolving at a breath-taking pace. Our officers must understand these technologies and be able to harness them," he said in his address at a convocation ceremony of the National Defence College in New Delhi. PTI

President concludes first visit to three African countries

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday left for home after wrapping up her three-nation visit to Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi, establishing new benchmarks in India-Africa relations. It was the first visit by an Indian Head of State to the three African nations. Ms. Murmu finished her visit in Malawi, where she held a "productive" discussion with her Malawian counterpart Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera on ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in various fields, including agriculture, mining, tourism and energy. Ms. Murmu's three-nation visit is reflective of India's "deep desire" to strengthen its partnership with countries in Africa, the MEA said. PTI

3 policemen suspended after accused speaks to media

Three policemen have been suspended for alleged negligence in duty, taking cognisance of videos in which a sharpshooter of Lawrence Bishnoi gang was seen interacting with reporters while in police custody and commenting on NCP leader Baba Siddique's killing, officials said on Saturday. In the videos that went viral on social media, Yogesh (26), alias Raju, said Siddique, who was killed in Mumbai recently, was not a good man and had connections with India's most-wanted criminal Dawood Ibrahim. Mathura Senior Superintendent of Police on Friday night ordered the suspension of three policemen, including a sub-inspector. PTI

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	3	8	5	7	1	2	4
4	1	7	9	2	3	8	5	6
5	8	2	4	1	6	7	3	9
6	5	9	3	7	4	2	8	1
3	4	1	2	6	8	5	9	7
2	7	8	1	9	5	6	4	3
1	3	5	7	8	9	4	6	2
8	2	4	6	3	1	9	7	5
7	9	6	5	4	2	3	1	8

India to seek certification from WHO for eliminating Kala-azar

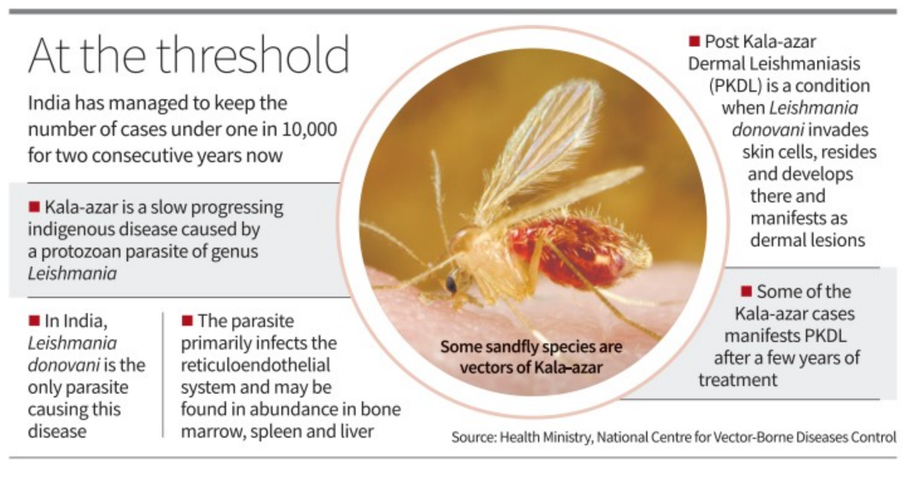
The infection, reported mostly from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of U.P., is caused by a protozoan parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly; symptoms include irregular fever, weight loss, and anaemia

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India could be at the threshold of eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem with the country having managed to keep the number of cases under one in 10,000 people for two consecutive years now as required by World Health Organization (WHO) parameters for elimination certification.

Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is the second deadliest parasitic disease after malaria in India. Figures released by the Health Ministry show that India registered 595 cases and four deaths in 2023 and this year, it has recorded 339 cases and one death so far.

If it can maintain the declining trend for another year, India will become eligible to seek the elimination certificate from the WHO, making it the second country in the world after Bangladesh which in October became the only country to have eliminated Kala-azar as a public health problem. The WHO validated this status after Bangladesh reported fewer than one case per 10,000 people in each of its subdistricts for three consecutive years.



Kala-azar is a disease caused by a protozoa parasite that is transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly.

Symptoms of the disease include irregular fevers, weight loss, enlarged spleen and liver, and anaemia. Kala-azar is fatal if left untreated in more than 95% of cases.

India's National Health Policy (2002) initially set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by 2010, but this was later revised to 2015, 2017, and then 2020. The WHO's Neglected Tropical Disease road map set a goal of eliminating Kala-azar by 2020, but the target was not achieved.

The WHO is now accelerating work to achieve the target by 2030.

A disease is certified as eliminated as a public health issue when a country can prove that local transmission has been interrupted for a set period, and that there is a system to prevent the disease from re-emerging. The WHO assesses countries' submissions to determine if they meet the criteria for elimination.

K. Madan Gopal, adviser at the public health administration, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Health Ministry, said India's Kala-azar programme focuses on active case detection, effective vector control, and raising community awareness. Achieving a low case of Kala-azar to less than one case per 10,000 population at the sub-district (block PHCs) for two straight years puts India on track to earn WHO certification for eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem. This will mark a significant milestone.

Vulnerable States

Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of Uttar Pradesh have seen the highest number of Kala-azar cases, with Bihar alone accounting for over 70% of India's cases. These areas offer ideal sandfly breeding conditions due to poor sanitation and climate factors.

Despite this, these regions have made huge progress in recent years by increasing awareness, controlling vectors, and

Health Ministry had adopted strategies such as early diagnosis, complete case management

ensuring quick diagnosis and treatment. "India is moving closer to Kala-azar elimination. It's also important to address the root causes, like poverty and inadequate sanitation, that allow diseases like Kala-azar to spread," Dr. Gopal said while cautioning that India must keep improving surveillance, expanding access to rapid diagnostic tools, and making treatments readily available to sustain these gains.

He added that for a long-term solution, India should focus on better vector control, address social and economic conditions, and invest in research for vaccines and new treatments.

The Health Ministry had adopted strategies such as early diagnosis and complete case management, integrated vector management and vector surveillance, supervision, monitoring, surveillance, evaluation, and advocacy, communication and social mobilisation for behavioural impact and inter-sectoral convergence.

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar to be new NCW chairperson

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed the ninth Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), succeeding Rekha Sharma, an official order said.

The appointment made under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, will be for a period of three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first, a government notification issued on Saturday said. Ms. Rahatkar's tenure will begin with immediate effect.

The announcement will also be published in the Gazette of India.

The NCW, a statutory body, is empowered to work towards the advancement of women's rights. Its mandate includes reviewing the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women.

West Bengal LoP meets Krishnanagar victim's family

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday reached out to the family of the 18-year-old school student killed in Krishnanagar. Mr. Adhikari went to meet the victim's family with fellow BJP leaders from the State.

The victim, a Class 12 student, was allegedly raped and murdered, and her half-burnt body was found in Krishnanagar of Nadia district on October 16.

The police are investigating the case, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed.

Mr. Adhikari accused the police of manipulating the victim's parents to hurriedly cremate her body.

Mamata reaches out to striking doctors; meeting scheduled for Monday

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday reached out to doctors who are on a fast-unto-death, and urged them to withdraw their hunger strike. During the day, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Home Secretary Nandini Chakraborty reached out to the doctors at the protest site in Esplanade and the Chief Minister spoke to them over telephone.

Ms. Banerjee reached out to the doctors on the 15th day of the hunger strike through the top officials of the West Bengal government. The hunger strike began on October 5, after almost 50 days of

Mamata Banerjee

cease work in protest against the brutal rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Hospital and Medical College on August 9.

Open to talks: CM

"I request you to call off the hunger strike. Let us sit for a discussion. Almost all the demands have been fulfilled. Please call off the hunger strike. Get back to work," the Chief Minister said in her appeal to the doctors over telephone.

A number of protesting doctors of West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front spoke to the Chief Minister. When one of the doctors urged the Chief Minister that their key demands include removal of Health Secretary N.S. Nigam, the Chief Minister said it was not possible to accept the demand.

During the discussion with the Chief Minister, the doctors agreed to meet her on Monday. One of the protesting doctors, Debasish Halder, said the manner in which the conversation was held over the telephone was very insensitive.

Trinamool leader rushed up last rites: R.G. Kar victim's kin

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Parents of the junior doctor who was raped and murdered at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital have alleged that a local Trinamool Congress councillor had hurriedly taken their daughter's body for cremation, against the family's wishes.

"Somnath Dey, a councillor of our area, got into our daughter's hearse and took her mortal remains away from us. None of our own family members were allowed to get into that vehicle," the victim's mother alleged in an interview televised on Friday on the Bengali news channel.

"When we were at Tala Police Station, he was calling us repeatedly, but we were not receiving his calls. Meanwhile, our relatives informed us that her body was being taken to the crematorium," she added.

According to her, she and her husband had gone to Tala Police Station to tell the police that they did not want their daughter's body to be cremated that night but instead wanted to preserve her remains for the night and go home.

"Regarding Abhaya's case, since her mother has shared her story, let the truth come to light. It was TMC Councillor Somnath Dey who took Abhaya's body without her parents' consent. The family faced police harassment, and it was BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul and BJP Councillor Sajal Ghosh, who intervened to protect them," the Bengal unit of BJP posted on X.

Company uses mining dust to enhance carbon capture

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The last thing you would expect is that dust from mining would be climate-friendly. But the right kind of dust moved to the right place is the core business of a Darjeeling-based company, Alt Carbon, and has already garnered $5,00,000 in investments for carbon-credit companies. At the heart of the company's approach is the geo-chemical process called rock weathering.

All rocks naturally break down into minerals over thousands of years. The consequence of this process is that atmospheric carbon reacts with these minerals (calcium and magnesium largely) and becomes bicarbonates. Eventually through aquifers, or underground streams and rivers, they make their way into the oceans where the carbon is locked in for aeons.

Alt Carbon collects crushed basalt from the Rajmahal mines and has them sprinkled on their tea estates. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The oceans, thus, are the major carbon sinks and capture about 30% of the CO2 from human activities. Left to nature, this process takes aeons. However, with the levels of carbon dioxide building up in the air and a consensus by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that some amount of carbon dioxide already present in the air needs to be removed by 2050, for keeping temperatures from exceeding 2 degree Celsius by the end of the century, governments as well as businesses are experimenting and investing in schemes to accelerate natural carbon removal processes. This is where 'enhanced' rock weathering comes in.

Basaltic rock, a kind of volcanic rock, is rich in minerals such as calcium and magnesium. Many parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat, where the volcanic Deccan Traps are located, are rich in such basaltic rock as parts of Jharkhand and West Bengal where the Rajmahal Traps are situated.

"Once such basaltic rock is crushed into a fine powder, its effective surface area is greatly increased. This accelerates the formation of bicarbonate anywhere from ten-fold to a hundred-fold and can be flushed into the ocean - depending on the soil, temperature and rivers - within a month," said Sambuddha Misra, Associate Professor and expert in chemical oceanography, at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. He is also the chief scientist at Alt Carbon. The company, which derives from a family-owned tea-garden industry, collects tonnes of crushed basalt from the Rajmahal mines, transports it about 200 kilometres to Darjeeling and has them sprinkled on tea estates in the region.

Being an organic fertiliser, the basaltic dust enriches the soil as well as accelerates carbon sequestration. So far, the company has used about 500 tonnes of dust. Though still early years, it takes about 3-4 tonnes of basalt dust to sequester, or trap, a tonne of atmospheric carbon over two to four years. "Normally it would have taken 1,000 years for natural basaltic rock to capture that much carbon," said Shrey Agrawal, CEO and co-founder, Alt Carbon. This September, the company entered into an agreement with Frontier, a consortium of McKinsey Sustainability, Alphabet, Meta, Shopify and Stripe, to buy a tranche of carbon sequestered this way in advance for $5,00,000. Carbon credits generated this way are bought by companies and they can use it to offset their carbon emissions, required under their national laws. Currently though, such purchases are largely voluntary.

INBRIEF

UCO Bank net profit rises 50% to ₹603 crore in Q2

State-owned UCO Bank posted a 50% jump in net profit, which stood at ₹603 crore in the September quarter, helped by improvement in interest income. The lender had recorded a net profit of ₹402 crore in the same quarter last year. Total income rose to ₹7,071 crore during the quarter from ₹5,866 crore a year ago, the bank said. The lender earned an interest income of ₹6,078 crore during the quarter compared to ₹5,219 crore in the same period a year earlier. PTI

RBL Bank net down 24% on credit card, MFI exposure

RBL Bank reported a 24% dip in net profit in the September quarter to ₹223 crore on asset quality challenges emanating from credit card and micro-lending books. The lender reported a post-tax net profit of ₹294 crore in the year-earlier period. RBL Bank CEO and MD R. Subramaniakumar attributed the stress in the microfinance book to industry-wide issues, but the challenges on the credit card front is on account of internal aspects. PTI

SMPP files draft papers with SEBI for ₹4,000 cr. IPO

Defence equipment manufacturer SMPP Ltd. has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise ₹4,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹580 crore and an offer for sale of equity shares worth up to ₹3,420 crore by promoter Shiv Chand Kansal, according to the draft red herring prospectus. Currently, Mr. Kansal holds a 50% stake in the company. PTI

HDFC Bank net rises 5.28% in Q2 amid a pick-up in NPAs

Net non-performing assets or NPAs grew 27.7% to hit ₹10,308.54 crore in the July-September quarter, while gross NPAs rose 8.46% to ₹34,250.62 crore; corporate and wholesale loans up 12%

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 5.24% uptick in standalone net profit at ₹16,821 crore in the second quarter (Q2) of 2024-25.

Net interest income rose 10% to ₹30,110 crore. Core net interest margin stood at 3.46% on total assets and 3.65% based on interest-earning assets.

Asset quality deteriorated during the quarter, with Gross Non Preforming Assets (NPAs) rising 8.46% to ₹34,250.62 crore. Net NPAs surged 27.7% to ₹10,308.54 crore. But provisions and contingencies were ₹2,700 crore against ₹2,900 crore in Q2 last year.

Total deposits stood at ₹25,00,100 crore as of September 30, an increase of 15.1%. Gross advances were at ₹25,19,000 crore, reflecting a 7% growth

Retail loans grew by 11.3%, while commercial and rural banking loans rose 17.4%. Corporate and other wholesale loans grew 12%, and overseas advances constituted 1.7% of total advances, the lender said. Total capital adequacy ratio (CAR) as per Basel III norms stood at 19.8% as on September 30, up from 19.5% a year ago, and well above the specified regulatory norm of 11.7%.

Banking on credit: Retail loans grew by 11.3% while commercial and rural banking loans rose 17.4%. REUTERS

Kotak Bank net rises 5% to ₹3,344 cr. in Q2

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. reported 5% year-on-year growth in its Q2 net profit that rose to ₹3,344 crore.

Net Interest Income (NII) increased to ₹7,020 crore, up 11%. The lender's net interest margin was 4.91%. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) decreased to ₹6,033 crore from ₹6,087 crore in the same quarter of 2023-24.

However, net NPAs climbed to ₹1,724 crore from ₹1,275 crore and [rovisions increased to ₹660 crore from ₹367 crore.

Customer assets, comprising advances and credit substitutes increased by 18% to ₹4,50,064 crore.

Advances increased 17% to ₹4,19,108 crore. Unsecured retail advances, as a percentage of the bank's net advances was 11.3%.

Average total deposits grew to ₹4,46,110 crore, up 16%. Capital Adequacy Ratio was 22.6% .

Kotak Asset Management saw its domestic MF equity AUM increase by 60% to ₹319,161 crore as on September 30.

In Maharashtra, bank staffers to strike work on November 16

Ashokamithran. T
MUMBAI

Maharashtra's bank employees will observe a one-day strike on November 16, demanding adequate security and action against those who assaulted bank staffers at Dabhadi branch of Bank of Maharashtra on October 16, the Union Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) said on Saturday.

The bank unions forum also cited events of abuse and assault on bankers across branches in Maharashtra since August.

"Umbrella organisation of all the nine unions of the bank employees have decided to observe one day's strike on 16th November in Maharashtra with the demand for adequate security to the bank employees and banks' property, stern action against those who have assaulted and abused the bank employees and adequate recruitment so as to give effective, efficient and satisfactory customer service" said UFBU.

Afcons Infra gears up for ₹5,430-cr. IPO on October 25

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shapoorji Pallonji Group's infrastructure engineering and construction firm Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. is gearing up to unveil its ₹5,430-crore initial public offering on October 25.

The initial share sale will conclude on October 29 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on October 24, according to the Afcons' red herring prospectus. The firm will unveil the price band for the IPO next week.

Tech M net surges to ₹1,250 cr. in Q2, firm to pay ₹15 dividend

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Tech Mahindra Ltd. said its consolidated Q2 net profit more than doubled year-on-year to ₹1,250 crore.

Revenue at ₹13,313 crore grew marginally by 3.5%. Total headcount at the end of the quarter was 1,54,273, up 3,669 year-on-year. The IT attrition rate was 10.6% in the last 12 months. The firm had cash and cash equivalent of ₹6,566 crore.

Interim dividend

The board declared an interim dividend declared

₹15 per share. Mohit Joshi, chief executive officer and managing director, Tech Mahindra, said: "We continue to progress on our strategic improvement efforts even as the overall IT services industry has remained soft."

"We have focused on strengthening client relationships and expanding the partner ecosystem while maintaining a sharp focus on operational excellence through project Fortius, which has resulted in an expansion of margins for the third sequential quarter," he added.

Rohit Anand, CFO, Tech Mahindra, said, "This quarter, we see consistent performance around increasing deal wins, revenue growth, cost optimisation and steady free cashflow generation as we continue our journey towards FY27 stated targets."

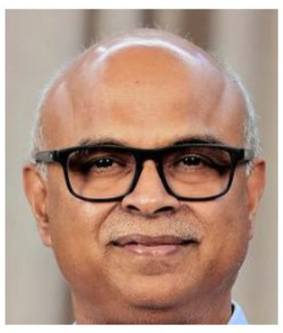
Tata Projects eyes green hydrogen, green ammonia, pump-storage hydro: CEO Pai

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Having built industrial units, hotels, hospitals, airports, dedicated freight corridors, metro rail lines, stations, data centres and power transmission lines, Tata Projects Ltd. is looking to build green hydrogen and green ammonia units as part of its future expansion strategy.

"Sustainability is a critical element for us and we see in this sustainability journey, a lot of opportunities will open up in new sectors," Vinayak Pai, MD & CEO, Tata Projects told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"Green hydrogen, green ammonia is one thing which I believe will accelerate over the next few years. Since India is very well placed because of the high percentage of renewable energy generation, mainly solar energy generation, that power can be used to generate either hydrogen or ammonia, which can then be stored and transported," he said.



Vinayak Pai

Mr. Pai said the "other is the new concept of pump storage hydro where you build basically to pump water in the daytime when you have renewable energy, and then you generate electricity in the night."

"All these are ways of harnessing the renewable energy and because of our experience of hydrocarbons through our oil, gas and hydrocarbon business, we have a good experience of hydrogen which is a very difficult element to handle," Mr. Pai averred.

The company, a leading EPC contractor majority owned by Tata Sons, is also eyeing opportunities in sustainable aviation fuel. and building battery manufacturing units and facilities for recycling batteries, its managing director and CEO informed.

GoM decides to cut GST on 20-litre water bottles, cycles

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The GoM on GST rate rationalisation decided to lower tax rates on 20-litre packaged drinking water bottles, bicycles and exercise notebooks to 5%, but suggested raising taxes on high-end wrist watches and shoes.

The decision taken by the GoM under Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary would lead to a revenue gain of ₹22,000 crore.

The GoM has proposed reducing GST on packaged drinking water of 20 litre and above to 5% from 18%, on bicycles costing less than ₹10,000 to 5% from 12%. It is also considering a hike in the GST on shoes of over ₹15,000 a pair to 28% from the present 18% rate.

'Auto industry likely to grow more than three times to $250 billion'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The auto industry, currently estimated at about $80 billion in India with $15 billion in exports, is expected to grow more than three times to $250 billion in the next few years, said Arvind Goel, chairman, CII WR Taskforce on Future Mobility, and Chairman, Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd.

"As India plans to achieve net carbon zero by 2070, many companies have targets to achieve it much before that. A huge amount will be invested by companies to take India to net carbon zero," Mr. Goel said at the CII NexGen Expo 2024 currently underway in Pune.

"With the abundance of renewable energy, the industry will move more quickly in the EV space. The auto industry will have a major role to play in the quantum of growth and opportunities as India aims to be a developed country by 2047," he added.

Swati Salgaocar, chairperson, CII Western region, noted that urban mobility faces challenges like congestion, pollution, and uneven access. "Future mobility must be sustainable, integrated, and automated. Trends like EVs, shared mobility, and autonomy are transforming cities globally. India is at a crucial stage of urbanisation, and decision-makers must act now," she said.

Rishi Kumar Bagla, deputy chairman, CII Western region said India's automotive component sector has seen steady growth in exports over the past decade, driven by cost optimisation in manufacturing, skill development, adherence to global standards, and government support with the Make in India initiative.

"India ranks among the top auto component suppliers in the world. If we continue to grow by 7-8% till 2047, the need will be eight times of the current consumption, and therefore the opportunities are huge," he said.

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No.: FD 01 BMB 2024 Date: 16.10.2024

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. **Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 4000 Crore (11 Year Tenure)**
2. **Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)**
3. **Date of auction : October 22, 2024**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

DIPR/DD-C.P/2571/KSMCA/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot
Tel Phone.: 08354- 235042 E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com Fax: 08354-235043
No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-1/5054/Tender/2024-25/2538 Date:09.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(KW-1 2 & 3 Bid Document)

Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-4 through Public electronic Tendering System (E-Tender from Class-1 & 2 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD, Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below.

Tender Called for 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿಶೇಷ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054 ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ರೂ.7.50 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ತಾಲೂಕು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ

Scheme Under Work Indent No: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ:: **RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT9142, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT9085, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT200, RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT9126** ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ::**RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT9432**, ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: **RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT9091** ಇದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.20.00 ದಿಂದ 95.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಮಿತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು), **read as below.**

Calendar of event

1	Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement	**Dt:10.10.2024 to 05.11.2024 at 5.30pm**
2	Opening of Technical Bid Date	**Dt:07.11.2024**
3	Opening of Financial Bid Date	**Technical Bid Approved.**

Note:- More details can be obtained through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. Phone no: 08354-235042

Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Bagalkote

DIPR/Bgk/293/DeshpandePublicity/2023-24

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Phone: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com
No. EE:RDW&SD:CBP:AE-2/2024-25 DATE: 15.10.2024

Tender notification No.07/2024-25
Date: 15.10.2024

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"S to **24** Villages Gowribidanur & Gudibande Taluk Chickballapur District . One &Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenderers are required to submit tenders through E-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ (1)** Last Date & Time for Queries: **21.10.2024, Time: 5.30 PM. (2)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **23.10.2024, Time:5.30 PM. (3)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **25.10.2024, Time:11.00 AM. (4)** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening **: 28.10.2024 Time: 11.00 AM.** More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation, Department,Chickballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/RO:237/KSMCA/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
ವಿಜಯಪುರ.

ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ 2025–26 ನೆಯ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಹೊಸ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಸಂಘ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು/ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು 2024–25 ನೆಯ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಸಂಯೋಜನೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ 2025–26 ನೆಯ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿಕೆ, ಶಾಶ್ವತ. ಶಾಶ್ವತ ನವೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಸ ಪ್ರೋಗ್ರಾಮ್, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊಸ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಕೋರ್ಸು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ, ಸ್ಥಳ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ, ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯುಯುಸಿಎಮ್‌ಎಸ್ ಸಂಯೋಜನೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಶುಲ್ಕಗಳ ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ www.kswu.ac.in ದಲ್ಲಿ CDC Link ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕಾಲೇಜು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9448862642 ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಂಯೋಜನಾ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು:

1) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.10.2024**

2) ದಂಡ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರಹಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.11.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ**

3) ದಂಡ ಶುಲ್ಕದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.11.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ**

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.11.2024 ರ ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂಯೋಜನಾ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/342/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

Plankton balloon to six times their size to reach ocean surface

The Hindu Bureau

Many plankton journey from the cold, dark depths of our oceans to the surface, only to eventually drift down again into the darkness in a perpetual rhythm. Yet, how single-celled phytoplankton, most of which have no appendages to help them swim, make this pilgrimage has remained a mystery. In a paper published in the journal *Current Biology*, researchers describe a species of bioluminescent phytoplankton, called *Pyrocystis noctiluca*, that balloons to six times their original size of a few hundred microns.

Phytoplankton are, on average, 5%-10% heavier than seawater, meaning that if they want to remain at the surface to photosynthesize, they have to find a way to beat gravity. The researchers discovered that *P. noctiluca* cells behave more like little submarines which can control their density so they can choose where they want to reach the ocean's surface.

'Natural part'

On a research vessel off the coast of Hawaii, one of the authors stumbled upon a bloom of *P. noctiluca* and surprisingly found two very different sizes in their nets. Videos helped the team see the cells doing the massive inflation. To test what effects this rapid growth might have on the plankton, the research team utilised their novel "gravity machine." By altering water pressure and density within the gravity machine, the team can create a virtual reality environment mimicking the ocean's depths.

With the machine, the team discovered that inflated cells were less dense than the surrounding seawater, letting them escape the downward pull of gravity and float toward the virtual surface.

Further investigation showed this expansion happens as a natural part of the plankton's cell cycle. Once a single-celled plankton divides into two, an internal structure called a vacuole, a kind of flexible water tank, filters in fresh water, causing the two new cells to massively grow in size. These two daughter cells, now swelled with the lighter freshwater, sail upward. "So, what happens during normal time? You are making a lot of proteins, you have tons of sunlight, and you make a lot of biomass until you get heavier and you sink. Then, you do cell division in the deeper waters and use inflation to get back to the size of the mother," Manu Prakash, a marine biologist and bioengineer at Stanford University said in a release.

Redesigned programmes can improve TB treatment outcomes

Doubling the direct benefit transfer to ₹1,000 per month, disbursing ₹3,000 at the time of diagnosis, and nutrition support to TB patients can have a huge impact

Anurag Bhargava
Madhavi Bhargava

TB remains a major public health problem in India with an estimated three million new patients with TB and 3,00,000 TB deaths every year. The recent announcement by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of doubling the direct benefit transfer from ₹500 to ₹1,000 per month in the Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) for the entire duration of treatment, and initiating the disbursement of ₹3,000 at the time of diagnosis is a welcome step. There is also a proposal to provide energy-dense nutritional supplements to underweight patients for two months and to extend nutritional and social support to the families. India is probably the only high TB burden country to roll out such a large-scale scheme that will address the nutritional needs and the economic distress of the patients.

TB remains a social disease in its causation and its outcomes. Social factors associated with poverty, such as overcrowding and undernutrition increase the risk of TB. Most other risk factors, too, like diabetes, smoking, and alcohol, are either more prevalent or are poorly managed in those living in poverty. Undernutrition contributes to more than a third to nearly half of new TB cases in India. Poor access to primary care, poor quality of care, and poor adherence generate a vicious cycle leading to severe disease and risk of death in the poor. Their predicament is grim as they face income loss, direct and indirect costs due to the disease and its treatment, food insecurity, and often an inability to return to usual work because of the sequelae of the disease.

The Nikshay Poshan Yojana is crucial because severe undernutrition is common in people with TB in India – the average weight of adult men is 43 kg and 38 kg for adult women at diagnosis. Without nutritional support, such patients have worse outcomes during and after treatment. These patients often do not have early weight gain, and this poses a high risk of death; even after effective treatment, undernutrition may persist, increasing the risk of recurrent TB. Studies also show a high prevalence of food insecurity in TB-affected households. Nutritional support thus has a sound clinical, public health, and ethical basis. It aligns with India's 2017 adaptation of the WHO guidelines on nutrition care and support for patients with TB. There is compelling evidence that nutritional support with food baskets can improve treatment adherence and weight gain, allow a successful return to work, and reduce mortality risk. In the RATIONS trial, in patients provided with a 10 kg per month food basket, early weight gain was associated with over 50% reduced risk of death. Moreover, a low-cost intervention of six months with a food basket of cereals and pulses with micronutrient pills for family members reduced new cases by up to 50%, akin to a vaccine.

An evaluation of the NPY programme over five years by the Chennai-based National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) has significant lessons. An important challenge is that the TB programme staff, now engaged in other new initiatives, feel overburdened by the processes of facilitating the direct benefit transfer. Another issue is that the most vulnerable communities cannot access the benefit because of a lack of proof of identity, residence, bank accounts, or distances involved. The NIE evaluation showed that non-receipt of benefits under NPY was associated with a four-fold higher risk of adverse outcomes.

As clinicians and researchers working in this field, some clarifications and implementation issues must be addressed. First, there is a need for dedicated human resources for NPY activities, and these can also be utilised for newer initiatives like evaluating household contacts. Second, there is a need for locally contextualised counseling material for patients and family members to emphasise nutrition as an essential component of treatment. It should include locally available and culturally acceptable foods to optimise the intake of energy and calories. Quality protein intake is deficient in poorer households. Pulses, soybean ground nuts, milk, and eggs are more cost-effective sources than supplements derived from them, and this needs particular emphasis in the counseling. Third, given the evidence supporting food baskets, the recommendation related to energy-dense supplements should be deliberated upon. Commercial nutritional supplements risk higher cost, mystification, lower acceptability, and lower long-term sustainability. Given the prevalence of severe undernutrition in our patients, two months of nutritional support may not be sufficient.

Fourth, with regard to Nikshay Mitra, the coverage of the most vulnerable is inadequate, and a redesign is warranted. Due to the significant stigma of TB, an explicit advisory against pictures of patients and families receiving food baskets is needed. Finally, nutritional, financial, and social support initiatives can work best if they are integrated with other aspects of care – uninterrupted supply of drugs, better management of comorbidities, better evaluation of patients at diagnosis for high-risk features, and referral for in-patient care as is being done in Tamil Nadu – are vital to ensuring better outcomes.

(Anurag Bhargava and Madhavi Bhargava work in the departments of Medicine and Community at the Yenepoya Medical College, Mangalore, and led the RATIONS trial)

More nutrition support for TB patients

Undernutrition is one of the main reasons for TB disease

NIAID

STAGGERING: India reports three million TB cases and 3,00,000 TB deaths each year

- The Health Ministry has doubled the direct benefit transfer from ₹500 to ₹1,000 per month for the entire duration of treatment
- Under the revised Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) programme, the process of disbursing ₹3,000 will be at the time of diagnosis
- The Chennai-based National Institute of Epidemiology found non-receipt of benefits under NPY was associated with a four-fold higher risk of adverse outcomes
- There is also a proposal to provide energy-dense nutritional supplements to underweight patients for two months
- The RATIONS trial found compelling evidence that nutritional support improves treatment adherence, weight gain, and 50% reduced risk of deaths
- Given the prevalence of severe undernutrition in TB patients, two months of nutritional support may not be sufficient
- Commercial nutritional supplements risk higher cost, mystification, lower acceptability, and lower long-term sustainability

Tea drinking across India

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Tea plants came to India from China and Southeastern Asia about three centuries ago, brought here by India by the British colonialists. While experimenting to introduce tea in India, they noticed that tea plants with thicker leaves also grew in Assam, and these, when planted in India, responded very well. (We must add that tea is also grown in some areas in Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, though not in amounts comparable to that in the Northeast). Recently, Uttaranchal and U.P. have also started growing tea. Today, India has the largest total consumption of tea (540,000 metric tonnes of tea, or 620 grams per capita). And India is the world's fourth largest exporter of tea and generates about $800 million.

According to the National Sample Survey Organization, India consumes 15 times more tea than coffee. In North India, tea has become the main daily drink there, both in urban and rural areas. A cup of it costs just ₹8 to ₹10, affordable for all. In contrast, even in South India (the home for coffee), a cup of tea is Rs.10 while coffee costs ₹15 to ₹20.

Chemical components

Several publications in the journals *Food Chemistry* and *Food Science and Human Wellness* have described the chemical molecules in tea leaves. They point out that these leaves are rich in aroma, which gives tea its fragrance. A 2015 paper in the journal *Food Science and Human Wellness* offers some examples of such aroma-filled compounds. In our daily diet, we have them in carrots, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes. Among the non-volatile examples, we have foodstuffs such as salt, sugar, calcium, and fruits, which are rich in vitamins and minerals.

India consumes 540,000 metric tonnes of tea each year. AFP

Tea leaves are also rich in vitamins, and protective compounds that help in improving blood pressure, and cardiovascular health, reducing diabetes risk, improving gut health, alleviating stress and anxiety, improving attention and focus, and improving attention. In these, tea scores better than coffee, since tea has less caffeine, which is a nervous system stimulant. This is also why children are not advised to drink either of these.

The authors of the 2015 paper found that the aroma of tea leaves is due to the presence of carotenoids such as volatile compounds called carotenoids such as lycopene, lutein, and Jasmonate. On the other hand, the taste of food is due to non-volatile compounds such as sugar, salt, iron, and calcium.

In daily food cooked and made at home, these flavours come by using iron, salt, calcium, and sugar on one hand, and vegetables such as carrots, sweet potatoes, and fresh vegetables on the other. In India, the Central Food Technology and Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) at Mysuru (and its branches elsewhere), is involved in studying antioxidants, polyphenols, and other health-promoting molecules in Indian food.

As mentioned above, more Indians drink tea rather than coffee. What then are the benefits of drinking tea over coffee? Tea has less caffeine than coffee. Tea has more antioxidants than coffee beans, but some scientists claim that coffee is better against diabetes than tea. So, depending on your taste, you may choose!

SNAPSHOTS

RSV vaccine effective in adults against severe disease, death

A study based on real world data analyses of the effectiveness of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine has found the vaccine to be highly effective in older adults, even those with immunocompromising conditions. RSV vaccination provided approximately 80% protection against disease and hospitalisation, ICU admission and death due to a respiratory infection and protection against less severe disease in adults who visited an emergency department but did not require hospitalisation.

Ultra-processed foods pose dangers for people

Consuming more ultra-processed foods is closely linked with higher blood sugar levels in people with Type 2 diabetes, a study has found. The researchers describe how – even more than just the presence of sugar and salt in the diet – having more ultra-processed foods laden with additives can lead to higher average blood glucose levels over a period of months, a measure called HbA1C. Studies have indicated ultra-processed foods linked to higher rates of cardiovascular disease, obesity, and early death.

Carbon dioxide emissions from fires increase by 60%

A major new study reveals that carbon dioxide emissions from forest fires have surged by 60% globally since 2001, and almost tripled in some of the most climate-sensitive northern boreal forests. In one of the largest pyromes – regions where forest fire patterns are affected by similar environmental, human, and climatic controls – that spans boreal forests in Eurasia and North America, emissions from fires tripled between 2001 and 2023.

Question Corner

Gene copies

When did the duplication of a gene responsible for breaking down complex carbohydrate starch in the mouth occur?

It has long been known that humans carry multiple copies of a gene that allows us to begin breaking down complex carbohydrate starch in the mouth. However, it has been difficult to determine how and when the number of these genes expanded. A new study reveals how the duplication of this gene – known as the salivary amylase gene (AMY1) – may not only have helped shape human adaptation to starchy foods but may have occurred as far back as more than 8,00,000 years ago. It showcases how early duplications set the stage for the wide genetic variation that still exists today, influencing how humans digest starchy foods. The research team found that pre-agricultural hunter-gatherers had an average of four to eight AMY1 copies per diploid cell, suggesting that humans were already walking around Eurasia with variety of high AMY1 copy numbers well before they started domesticating plants and eating excess amounts of starch.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

How will a classical status help languages?

What does this mean for Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali and Prakrit? On what basis is such a status accorded?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

The Union Cabinet approved classical status for five languages earlier this month – Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit – by tweaking the criteria for the declaration.

What makes a language classical?

When the new UPA-led Union government introduced the classical status for Indian languages in 2004, it defined them using three criteria: that its earliest texts or recorded history dated back over a thousand years; that it had a body of ancient literature considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers; and that its literary tradition must be original and not borrowed from another speech community. Tamil was the first language declared to be classical. In 2005, these criteria were tweaked to push back the historical requirement to 1,500 to 2,000 years and to stipulate that "the classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots". Under these norms, five more languages were declared as classical over the next decade: Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.

How did these languages attain this status?

"In 2012, the Pathare committee was set up to develop the proposal [for Marathi to be declared a classical language] with evidence from old documents. It was finally submitted to the [Union Culture Ministry's] Linguistic Experts Committee [LEC] in November 2013," says Sadanand More, chairman of the Maharashtra State Literature and Culture Board. In July 2014, then-Congress Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan presented the proposal to the newly elected Modi-led government at the Centre, and State governments led by the BJP and Shiv Sena continued to pursue the matter for a decade. "Over a lakh people sent postcards to the President, MPs asked questions in Parliament, someone went to court..." says Dr. More. Noting that Marathi has at least 2,000 years of consistent history, he claimed that Maharashtri Prakrit was an original language, unlike other forms of Prakrit which are derivative.

'A classical status is a matter of national pride for a language; it will help research proposals in the vernacular languages to get central funds'

In July 2024, the LEC removed the requirement that any proposed language's "literary tradition must be original and not borrowed from another speech community", and added a requirement for "knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence". It also said a classical language "could be" distinct from its current form.

These new criteria paved the way for not just Marathi, but also Bengali and Assamese, which are also modern languages in current use. "We submitted a 392-page report to the Culture Ministry in March 2021 tracing the history of Assamese to prove its antiquity. Stone inscriptions go as far back as the third century AD. There are copper plates and manuscripts written on the bark of the Sanchi tree, as well as extensive folklore and folksongs in Assamese," Kuladhar Saikia, former president of the Assam Sahitya Sabha said, noting that the popular drive to protect Assamese comes from a colonial history of attempted language erasure. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had, in January 2024, sent a four-volume report to the Centre, seeking classical status for Bengali on the grounds of concrete evidence proving that it existed as a written language as far back as the 3rd or 4th century BCE.

What lies ahead for the newly declared classical languages?

"It is important that the language in which Nobel Prize winner Rabindranath Tagore wrote is recognised as a classical language, at a time when many people are reluctant to speak in Bangla," says Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri, a writer, historian and Indologist. "So many Bengali works are awaiting translation. Bengali dialects also need support. This will also help research proposals in Bangla to get central funds." The Centre has funded universities for Sanskrit and Tamil and centres of excellence and university chairs for the other existing classical languages, as well as national and international awards. Central budget grants for classical languages have ranged from ₹51 crore for Tamil in the last decade to ₹3.7 crore for Malayalam since 2020.

"There are so many rock inscriptions in Assamese which are yet to be deciphered, and this will support researchers seeking to study the ancient language and translate Assamese classics," says Mr. Saikia. "But we also hope it will give a fillip to the learning and use of modern Assamese, given the rise of English-medium schools. Our report proved that our language has deep roots. Now we must ensure that it also has support to spread its leaves and branches."

What are the stress factors for Indian Railways?

Why has there been a spate of accidents across railway zones? Will 'Kavach' coverage and overhauling of signalling systems help? Is it earning enough from passenger and freight services to plough back profits for upgradation, maintenance and paying salaries?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On October 17, eight coaches of the Agartala-Lokmanya Tilak Express derailed in Assam with no casualties. On October 11, a passenger train rear-ended a stationary goods train near Chennai, also with no casualties. Indian trains have been involved in multiple accidents of late. The Balasore accident on June 2, 2023, had the greatest death toll, more than 275, yet pressure on the Railways to improve safety competes with pressures straining its subsistence.

How common are accidents?

The number of railway accidents dropped from 1,390 per year in the 1960s to 80 per year in the last decade. There were still 34 consequential accidents in 2021-2022, 48 in 2022-23, and 40 in 2023-2024. A consequential accident injures and/or kills people, damages railway infrastructure, and disrupts rail traffic.

According to public records, 55.8% of all accidents involving trains have been due to the failure of Railway staff and another 28.4% due to failures on the part of non-staff people. Equipment failure accounted for 6.2%. In both the Balasore and the Kavaraipettai accidents, officials blamed the signalling system.

What is 'Kavach'?

The 'Kavach' automatic train protection system is designed to prevent collisions using devices that allow pilots to track the relative location of their vehicles and which can actuate alarms and automated braking protocols.

By February 2024, the Railways had installed 'Kavach' on 1,465 route km, or 2% of its total route length. After the Balasore accident, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said 'Kavach' would be implemented in "mission mode". It costs ₹50 lakh per kilometre and ₹70 lakh per locomotive. An analysis by *The Hindu* found the all-inclusive cost of implementation over a decade to be less than 2% of the Railways' annual capex. When faced with criticism of the slow implementation, officials have deferred to declines in accident incidence and mortality over the years. But experts have said comparing current and past accident rates is misguided because advanced safety technologies didn't exist earlier and that the government has the means today to eliminate collisions.

The Railways is caught between providing an affordable travelling option and being a profitable business

Since 1990-1991, the Railways has classified nearly 70% of all major accidents as derailments, but only 2% of them were due to collisions. 'Kavach' also may not have prevented the Kavaraipettai accident because the relevant error happened beyond the minimum margins 'Kavach' requires to assist.

Accident prone: The Mysuru-Darbhanga Express rammed a goods train due to signal failure at Kavarapettai station on October 11. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

What is the operating ratio?

The operating ratio (OR) – the amount the Railways spends to earn ₹100 – in 2024-2025 is estimated to be ₹98.2, a small improvement from 2023-2024 (₹98.7) but a decline from ₹97.8 in 2016. A higher OR leaves less for capex and the Railways more dependent on budgetary support and Extra-Budgetary Resources (EBRs). In 2016-2017, the BJP government brought the railway budget under the regular budget after nine decades of separation. One outcome was easier access for the Railways to gross budgetary support. As for EBRs: the Railways' dues have ballooned to 17% of its revenue receipts today from 10% in 2015-2016.

How are freight services faring?

The Railways' two main internal revenue sources are passenger services and freight. The latter accounts for 65%. While revenue from both sources is increasing, freight rates increased more than thrice as fast as passenger rates in 2009-2019, NITI Aayog has estimated.

According to the draft National Rail Plan, nearly 30% of the railway network is utilised to more than 100% capacity. This has translated to slow freight movement – around 26 km/hr in 2016 – and slower revenue growth. Of the Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) the government mooted in 2005, only the eastern DFC is fully operational. The western DFC is partly ready; the east coast, east-west sub-corridor, and north-south sub-corridor DFCs, amounting to 3,958 km, are still in planning. Freight revenue also depends on the freight basket. Coal accounted for half of the freight revenue and 45% of volume in the 2024-2025 budget estimate. However, the government has been adding more renewable energy sources while pushing industries to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, including coal.

The Railways also needs to keep up existing equipment, including replacing tracks and wagons and maintaining trackside infrastructure. But in the 2023-2024 budget, capital outlay for track renewal dropped to 7.2%. Appropriations to the Depreciation Reserve Fund also fell 96% in the BJP's first term; the government had moved these resources to the Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh safety fund created in 2017-2018. The Standing Committee on Railways said then the latter wouldn't be able to pay to repair or replace depreciating assets.

What about passenger services' revenue?

The Railways' freight profit is offset significantly by passenger losses. In 2019-2020, the revenue from passenger services was a little over ₹50,000 crore and loss, ₹63,364 crore. In 2021-2022 – a pandemic year in which many trains had to be cancelled – passenger services incurred a loss of ₹68,269 crore. In a July 2024 analysis, PRL Legislative Research estimated the revenue from passenger services was ₹80,000 crore in 2024-2025.

PRL also estimated the Railways had a passenger traffic of 11 lakh passenger km, expected to increase to 12.4 lakh in 2024-2025 thanks to the addition of new trains – including the Vande Bharats – on high-traffic routes. The Railways has also replaced many of the more affordably ticketed sleeper and second-class coaches with the more expensive AC coaches, all to increase passenger revenue. However, it last rationalised passenger fares in 2020.

How is safety affected?

For a long time now, the Railways has been caught between two aspirations: providing an affordable travelling option to the Indian people versus being a profitable business.

The Railways' losses are compounded by growing wage and pension bills and fuel costs. Locomotive pilots have also reported stressful working conditions, including 12-hour shifts, especially in zones with large freight volumes, and shifting standard operating procedures.

The high network congestion is likewise exemplified by the limited utility of 'Kavach' as well as the failure of a homegrown system, based on walkie-talkies, to alert trackside workers to oncoming trains. "The system does not work fully ... where a number of trains ply in a single block section at close intervals and signals are placed 1 km apart," Mr. Vaishnaw told the Rajya Sabha in 2023. In sum, the Railways' inability to generate revenue to plug gaps in the gross budgetary support, burgeoning demands on its revenue receipts, and growing pressure to ease congestion and improve physical capacity mean it's constantly playing catch-up.

Did Google violate antitrust laws in Epic battle?

Why has a U.S. judge ordered the tech giant to open up its Play Store to third-party apps? What happened when Epic's CEO Tim Sweeney took issue with Google's cut from every transaction made through Android devices? What happened to the lawsuit with Apple?

John Xavier

The story so far:

On October 7, U.S. District Judge James Donato issued an injunction against Alphabet-owned Google, ordering the tech giant to open up its Play Store to third-party apps. The ruling prohibits Google from cutting exclusive deals with app developers and phone manufacturers, requiring them to pre-install the Play Store on their devices. Furthermore, Google is now required to allow app developers to offer alternative payment options within their apps.

What has been Google's response?

Google has already appealed the decision, and in a company blog post, it expressed concerns that the ruling could undermine consumer privacy and security, make it more difficult for developers to promote their apps, and reduce competition on mobile devices. But the court's decision is seen by many as a crucial turning point in the ongoing battle between developers and app store operators over market control.

What's the background to this injunction?

Legal tensions between app developers and major app store operators like Google and Apple have been escalating for several years. A major flashpoint came in August 2020, when Tencent-backed Epic Games –the maker of Fortnite – introduced a direct payment option in its app, bypassing both Google's and Apple's mandatory in-app billing systems. By doing so, Epic circumvented the hefty commissions that both platforms charge developers for in-app purchases and subscriptions. For Epic Games, these commissions typically range from 15-30%.

The implications of these rulings, especially the injunction against Google, could be profound for the app economy

Fortnite, which operates under a free-to-play model, generates revenue through in-app purchases and other gameplay-related items. Epic's CEO Tim Sweeney took issue with Google's cut from every transaction made through Android devices, believing it was unjust and restrictive. In retaliation, both Google and Apple removed Fortnite from their respective app stores, leading Epic to file two separate antitrust lawsuits – one against Google and the other against Apple. This move was seen as a direct challenge to the tech giants' dominance in the app store economy and brought the issue of digital monopolies to the forefront.

The legal battle between Epic Games and Google has been drawn out over several years, with various pieces of evidence surfacing during the trial. A key argument from Epic was that Google's practices – such as making exclusive agreements with developers and enforcing the use of its own billing system – were inherently anti-competitive. Google had made deals with companies like Activision Blizzard and Nintendo, offering incentives such as lower commissions to get their apps and games onto the Play Store while requiring them to use Google's billing system.

The case was a jury trial, and in December 2023, the jury unanimously found that Google had engaged in anti-competitive practices that harmed Epic's business and stifled competition for other developers. This ruling ultimately led to Judge Donato's injunction.

Game changer: In 2020, Epic Games introduced a direct payment option. AFP

How do Epic's lawsuits against Google and Apple differ?

While Epic filed similar antitrust lawsuits against both Google and Apple, the outcomes of these two cases have been quite different. Epic's lawsuit against Apple, which was a bench trial, resulted in a mixed ruling. U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers found that while Apple was not a monopoly in the app marketplace, it had still imposed some anti-competitive policies. The court ordered Apple to allow developers to offer payment options for in-app purchases, but Epic was required to pay damages for violating Apple's developer agreement.

However, the injunction against Google presents a stark contrast. As the Google case was tried before a jury, Epic had a greater opportunity to present evidence of Google's exclusive agreements with other developers, which helped convince the jury that Google had violated antitrust laws. This difference in how the cases were handled – bench trial versus jury trial– had a significant impact on the outcomes.

How will it impact the app economy?

The implications of these rulings, especially the injunction against Google, could be profound for the app economy, which is valued at over $250 billion and is largely controlled by Google Play Store and Apple's App Store. First, Google and Apple will need to revise their app store policies to accommodate more developer-friendly terms, such as allowing alternative payment methods and perhaps reducing the commissions they charge on in-app transactions.

Moreover, the injunction against Google could open the door for alternative app stores, which would reduce the near-total control Google and Apple have over app distribution. For consumers, this might mean lower prices for apps, subscriptions, and in-app purchases, as developers will no longer be forced to pay high commissions to app store operators. The knock-on effect could be significant, allowing smaller developers to pass on savings to consumers and potentially lowering the barrier to entry for new app makers.

However, one potential downside is app discoverability. Today, developers only need to create and promote their apps on two major platforms – Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store. But in a world with multiple app stores, smaller developers may find it harder to get noticed and attract customers across these fragmented marketplaces. Overall, these legal decisions mark a major shift in how the app economy may operate going forward. They reflect growing scrutiny of big tech companies and their influence over digital marketplaces, which could pave the way for more open competition and fairer terms for developers.

Stepping out of the shadows

Nayab Singh Saini

The man the BJP picked to replace Manohar Lal Khattar in March 2024 has led the party to its third straight win in Haryana, defying anti-incumbency sentiments as well as poll predictions

Vikas Vasudeva

On October 17, Haryana saw a significant moment in State politics as the Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) Nayab Singh Saini, 54, took oath as the Chief Minister of the State for the second term. Not hailing from any political family, Mr. Saini, who first became Chief Minister in March 2024 after incumbent Manohar Lal Khattar's resignation, helped the party win the election for the third straight time.

With 48 seats in its kitty in the 90-member Assembly, the BJP saw its best performance in the State. In 2014, when the party first came to power in the State on its own, it had won 47 seats.

In Haryana where around 36 communities make up its social mosaic, the BJP placed its bet on Mr. Saini, who belongs to the Other Backward Classes (OBC), and it appeared to have paid off. The BJP's electoral strategy centred around the consolidation of 'non-Jats', primarily the backward classes.

The BJP first replaced Mr. Khattar with Mr. Saini as Chief Minister, apparently to offset the 'anti-incumbency' effect.

Seen as a modest, soft-spoken and yet assertive leader in political circles, Mr. Saini blended well with the State's political milieu that spins around coalitions of castes.

Born on January 25, 1970 in a farmer family in Mirzapur of Haryana's Ambala district, Nayab Singh Saini joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at a young age. His long association with the Sangh is seen as a key factor behind his meteoric rise in politics.

While working with the RSS, Mr. Saini came into contact with Mr. Khattar, and eventually became his close aide, which helped him secure the top job earlier this year when Mr. Khattar stepped down. In the run-up to the Assembly election, the Congress ran a campaign surrounding 'farmers, soldiers and wrestlers', targeting the BJP. Mr. Saini led the party from the front to counter the opposition's narrative. The BJP's micro-management at the booth level and the works of the BJP and RSS cadres appeared to have helped the party extend its decade-long rule in Haryana even amid tough challenges posed by the opposition.

Mr. Saini's 'common man leader' image as well as his down-to-earth style (he was easily approachable for his colleagues and the public) also helped the party beat the odds.

First decisions

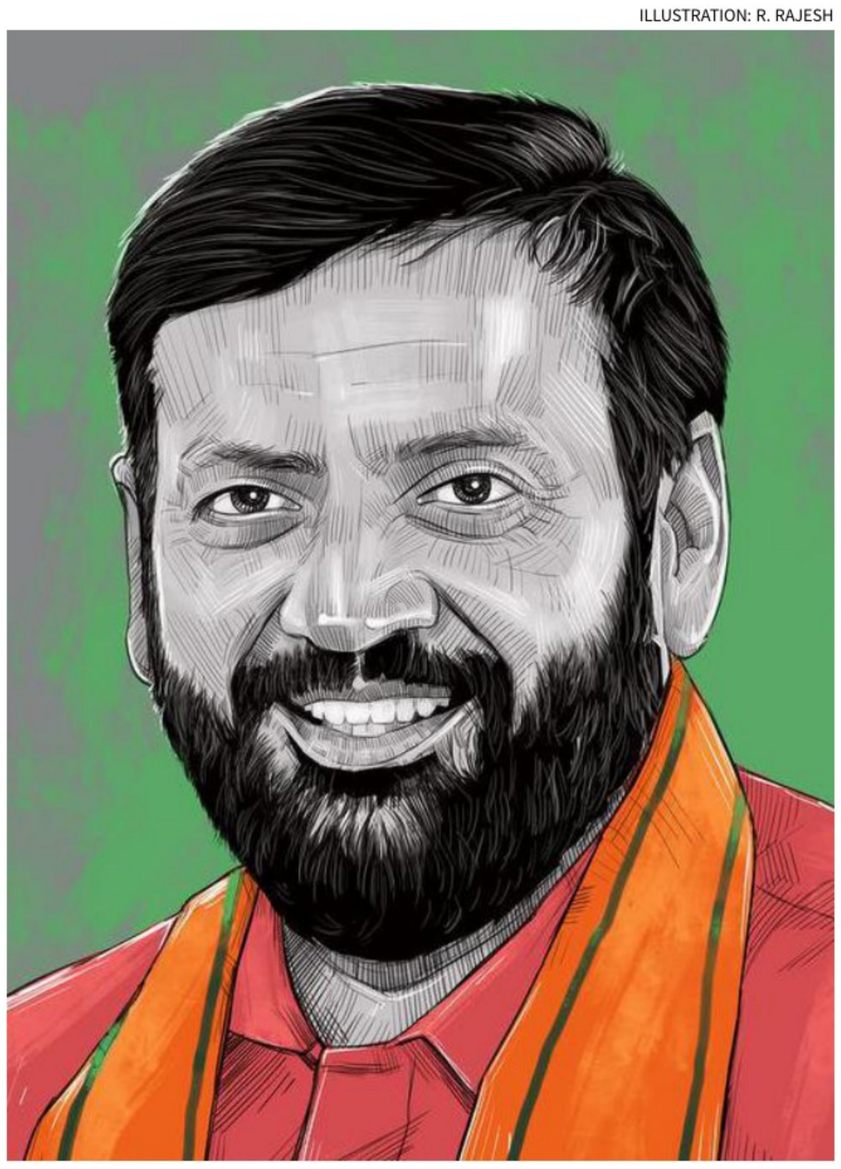
A law graduate, Mr. Saini soon after assuming the office, reiterated that his government was committed to working for people's welfare. On October 18, his first Cabinet meeting gave nod to implement the recommendations of the Haryana Scheduled Castes Commission's report on the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs). Following this, within the 20% quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes in direct recruitment to government services, 10% will be reserved for candidates from 'deprived' Scheduled Castes.

The Cabinet also approved free dialysis services for patients suffering from serious kidney diseases in the State. Assuring the farming community, as the paddy season was under way, the Chief Minister stated the State government is committed to procuring every single grain produced by farmers. These decisions and assurances are seen as an attempt by the BJP Chief Minister to firm up the party's position among Dalits, farmers and other backward sections.

Mr. Saini's political career started in Haryana in 1996 when he joined the BJP. In 2002, he became general secretary of the party's youth wing (BJP Yuva Morcha) in Ambala district and three years later, its district president. Mr. Saini had also held the position of State general secretary of the party's farmers wing (Haryana BJP Kisan Morcha). In 2012, he was appointed as the BJP president of Ambala district as he continued to climb up the political ladder.

He took the electoral plunge in 2009, but lost in the Naraingarh constituency. In 2014, however, the story was different. This time, Mr. Saini registered a thumping victory from the same constituency even as the BJP, for the first time, formed its government in Haryana.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



In Mr. Khattar's Cabinet, Mr. Saini was inducted as a Minister of State. Later, in 2019, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Kurukshetra constituency. Rising through the ranks, Mr. Saini became the Haryana BJP chief in October 2023. In March 2024, as the party was preparing for the coming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, Mr. Saini was elevated as Chief Minister.

He later won a byelection from the Karnal Assembly seat, which was vacated by Mr. Khattar, who is now a Minister in the Union Cabinet. In the 2024 Assembly election, Mr. Saini was elected from the Ladwa Assembly constituency.

Pawan Saini, a former BJP MLA, who has been closely associated with the Chief Minister for decades, asserts that Mr. Saini's humbleness and commitment towards his work and the organisation is his key to success. "He is exceptionally humble and has a strong work ethic, an eye for detail, and the drive and ambition necessary to succeed. Besides, his ability to take along his colleagues is notable," he said.

"For long, both of us have been working together as we share neighbouring constituencies (Ladwa and Naraingarh). In 2014, we both became MLAs, and he was inducted into the Ministry. Yet, he ensured to take me along at all events, meetings, etc. He would make sure that we travelled in the same vehicle. He has a knack for making people feel comfortable," added Mr. Pawan Saini.

The task ahead

Now that Mr. Saini has assumed his second innings as Chief Minister, the task ahead would be a daunting one, which will test his organisational and governance skills. Before the 2024 Assembly election, when Mr. Saini was appointed as Chief Minister, his focus was on bucking the 'anti-incumbency' sentiment against the BJP.

He took measures addressing issues related to youth-unemployment and farmers' unrest. He announced a quota for 'Agniveers', after the completion of their service in the armed forces, in select government jobs.

To win over farmers, he announced that the State government would buy 10 more crops at a Minimum Support Price, making Haryana the only State to purchase 24 crops at MSP.

While these decisions may have had an impact on the voters, after the election, the focus has shifted to the road ahead. Mr. Saini and the BJP had made huge promises during the campaign – providing a ₹2,100 monthly assistance for women, creating 2,00,000 government jobs, providing scooter for college-going women students in rural areas, etc.

For a State which has a debt liability of ₹3 lakh crore, meeting these promises itself would be an uphill task. But Mr. Saini seems ready for the challenge.

THE GIST

- Born on January 25, 1970 in a farmer family in Mirzapur of Haryana's Ambala district, Nayab Singh Saini joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at a young age
- He took the electoral plunge in 2009, but lost from the Naraingarh constituency. The story was different in 2014, when he won the same constituency and became a Minister
- Rising through the ranks, Saini became the Haryana BJP chief in October 2023. A year later, as the party was preparing for the coming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, Saini was elevated as Chief Minister in March

Building a crime syndicate

Lawrence Bishnoi

The lawyer-turned-gangster, who is currently lodged in the Sabarmati central jail, continues to coordinate with his gangs

Samridhi Tewari

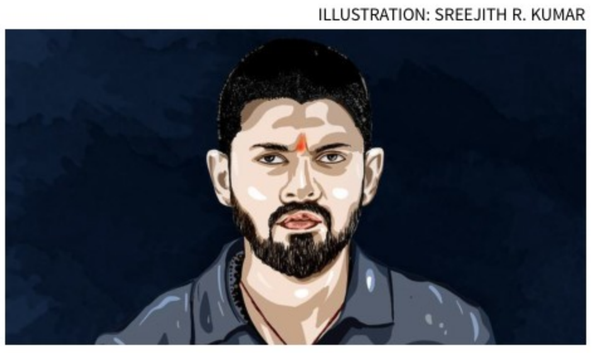
Hours after Nationalist Congress Party leader Baba Siddique, 66, was shot dead by three men in Mumbai's Nirmal Nagar area on October 12, Shubuu Lonkar alias Shubham Lonkar claimed responsibility on Facebook. Sources claimed Lonkar was a close associate of lawyer-turned gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is currently lodged in Sabarmati central jail.

Investigations revealed that Instagram and Snapchat were used for communication. Multiple reconnaissance were conducted in cars and bikes to track Siddique's movements in Bandra. The operation was led by Mohammad Zeeshan Akhtar, who directed the team – a typical Bishnoi gang tactic where handlers issue orders while Bishnoi manages the operations.

Exactly two-and-a-half years ago, popular Punjabi singer and Congress leader Sidhu Moosewala was killed by the Bishnoi gang. At least 24 shots were pumped into his body in Mansa district of Punjab. He was closely being watched by Goldy Brar, one of Bishnoi's oldest friends and associates who operates from Canada.

This crime syndicate built by Bishnoi runs deep in India and beyond.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



In Fazilka, Bishnoi's village, he's remembered as a "well-behaved boy who never picked fights". He was enrolled in Assumption Convent School, a Christian boarding school in Abohar, where he studied till class X. His parents then enrolled him at DAV School in Chandigarh, where he stayed in a hostel and developed an interest in athletics, particularly the 1,500-metre race.

It was in 2008 when Robin Brar, one of Bishnoi's friends stood for student council elections, and to threaten the rival candidate, Bishnoi fired at him, using a friend's revolver. He was sent to jail for attempted murder, which launched his career into the crime world. In 2012, after graduating from college, he had both friends and enemies, and a gang.

Satinderjit Singh, alias Satwinder or Goldy Brar, left India to run a syndicate and seek sophisticated weapons. He was linked to Harvinder Singh Sandhu, alias Rinda, through Lakhbir Singh, alias Landa – both connected to Babbar Khalsa International, a banned Khalistani militant organisation.

NIA sources claim the Bishnoi syndicate subsequently got associated with pro-Khalistani elements due to their wide base across States, availability of shooters, and an easy availability of funds.

Foot soldiers

The NIA draws parallels between the Bishnoi gang and Dawood Ibrahim, the kingpin of D-Company. Dawood started with petty crimes like fraud and robbery in the 1980s and became notorious for terrorism, extortion, targeted killings, and trafficking.

Bishnoi, too, in connivance with Brar, built a syndicate in north India. Later, Sachin Thapan, Anmol Bishnoi, Vikramjit Singh, Kala Jatheri, and Kala Rana created a network of 700 associates and members in 10 years.

While being active in Delhi, M.P., Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Rajasthan and U.P., on ground, young men with a weak socio-economic background, hit by unemployment or drug addiction, usually in the age group of 18 to 25, are lured by the handlers for easy money. They are lured with a ticket to Canada or the U.S. or to live a lavish lifestyle like a gangster.

Facebook, Instagram and YouTube are extensively used to promote the criminal activities. "From the photos taken from court visits while he's in custody, to the social media posts, there's an entire wave of Bishnoi's followers, who chant slogans such as 'Jai Balkari Ji', and upload videos and regularly engage with his content.

Currently lodged inside the Sabarmati central jail, located in Ahmedabad, Bishnoi, who has more than 80 criminal cases in his dossier, continues to remain active.

He is adept at operating from inside the jail. He has not even applied for bail in any case for many years.

Even Moosewala's murder was planned in different jails – Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria in Tihar jail, Manpreet in Ferozpur jail, Saraj Singh in Special jail in Bhatinda and Manmohan Singh in Mansa jail. All were in touch with Goldy Brar. Police say Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calls, which the gangsters are believed to have used for communication, are hard to trace.

Peacekeepers under attack

UNIFIL

Established by a 1978 UN mandate, the peacekeeping troops are today caught between the Israeli Army and Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon

Suchitra Karthikeyan

"We are staying", asserted the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on October 13, in the wake of the Israeli attack on the force's premises in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL is the global body's peacekeeping force patrolling southern Lebanon. Currently, the group has come under direct fire from the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), which continues to expands its war against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Established in 1978 by the UN's Security Council, UNIFIL was tasked with ensuring the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon after Tel Aviv invaded Beirut to push back the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). UNIFIL is also tasked with maintaining peace and security in the region and assisting the Lebanese government to regain authority in the area. The 9,532-strong troops monitor movement across the UN-mapped 'Blue line' spanning the 120 km border between Israel and Lebanon.

Drawing troops from 34 nations, Indonesia is UNIFIL's biggest contributor supplying 1,215 personnel, followed by Italy (963), India (876), Nepal (858) and Ghana (857). Operating across 29 locations between the Litani River in the north and the Blue line in the south, UNIFIL has suffered 334 fatalities as of date. With a $500-million budget funded annually by the UN General Assembly, UNIFIL's relevance is only growing as confrontations escalate.

PHOTO: AFP

In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon again, leading to the PLO's exit from the country. As the occupation prolonged, Hezbollah rose as a resistance force. Israel continued its occupation of parts of Southern Lebanon, which saw multiple clashes between Hezbollah and the IDF throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

In 2000, Israel unilaterally withdrew troops from Lebanon, which led to UNIFIL troops being reconfigured and redeployed in the south. In 2006, Hezbollah conducted a cross-border raid in Israeli border towns, leading to a ground invasion by the IDF into Lebanon. The 34-day conflict ended after a UN-brokered ceasefire and with it, UNIFIL's mandate was expanded to monitor cessation of hostilities, support the Lebanese Army as Israeli troops withdrew, ensure humanitarian aid access, return of displaced persons, keep UNIFIL's operational area free of troops, weapons and assets other than its own and Lebanon's. The peacekeeping force was also tasked with assisting the Lebanese Army in securing and controlling its borders. This has not been possible as southern Lebanon is currently under Hezbollah's control.

Escalation in Lebanon

The IDF dramatically escalated the war against Hezbollah in September, with the killing of its chief, Hassan Nasrallah, and several other top level commanders.

Caught between the IDF and Hezbollah, UNIFIL first came under fire on October 10, when the IDF fired at three positions of UNIFIL including its main base in Naqoura. A week earlier, UNIFIL had written to the IDF objecting to Israeli military vehicles and troops positioning themselves 'in the immediate proximity' to UN positions, 'endangering the safety of UNIFIL personnel'.

On October 13, two IDF Merkava tanks destroyed the main gate and forcibly entered a UNIFIL position, injuring five peacekeepers, damaging the premises and disrupting mission movements. The two tanks left after two hours and firing several rounds, emitting smoke and affecting civilian peacekeepers inside the UNIFIL building.

As UNIFIL accused the IDF of 'deliberate breach and targetting peacekeepers', Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged UNIFIL to 'temporarily get out of harm's way', as its presence was acting as a 'human shield' for Hezbollah.

UNIFIL's spokesperson Andrea Tenenti reminded him that the mission was in Lebanon under a Security Council mandate and it involved parties' obligation to ensure the safety of its troops. Backing UNIFIL, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "The UN flag continues to fly".

India, one of the contributing countries of UNIFIL, stated it takes safety of UN peacekeepers 'very seriously' and called for action to maintain troops' safety, but stopped short of condemning the IDF. The Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that no Indian troops have been deployed at the Blue Line.

GAZA STRIP

'Over 400 killed in two weeks of Israeli assault on northern Gaza'

AFP

Gaza's civil defence agency said on Saturday that more than 400 Palestinians were killed in the north of the territory over the past two weeks during an ongoing military assault Israel says is aimed at preventing Hamas militants from regrouping. The dead included women, children and the elderly. AFP

MOSCOW

Russian troops capture the village of Zoryane in eastern Ukraine

AFP

Russia said it has taken the village of Zoryane in eastern Ukraine, enabling its troops to approach the industrial hub of Kurakhove. Kurakhove lies west of Donetsk city, which is already under Russian control. Kurakhove, home to about 20,000 before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, also lies south of Pokrovsk, a logistic hub. AFP

BANGKOK

Chinese consulate in Myanmar's Mandalay hit by explosive device

AFP

China's consulate in Myanmar's city of Mandalay was attacked with an explosive device, local media said on Saturday, adding that no deaths or injuries were reported. China is a major ally and arms supplier to Myanmar's junta, but it also maintains ties with ethnic groups fighting the military in Myanmar's northern Shan state. AFP

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

Four new polio cases reported in Pakistan, taking tally to 37 this year

AFP

Pakistan reported another four cases of polio taking the national tally to 37 this year. Wild poliovirus type-1 (WPV 1) was detected in three children from Balochistan and one child from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, *The Dawn* reported. Pakistan remains one of the few countries in the world where polio remains endemic. PTI

Two killed in Beirut as Hezbollah and Israel exchange fire

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

The militant group fires a large salvo of advanced rockets that hit a military base east of Haifa

Hezbollah said it fired rockets at northern Israel, including at a military base near the city of Haifa on Saturday after the Israeli Army reported a barrage of projectiles launched from Lebanon.

A "large salvo" of advanced rockets hit a military base east of Haifa, said Hezbollah, which has vowed to intensify attacks on Israel weeks into an all-out war that erupted on September 23.

The Iran-backed group also said it fired a rocket salvo on the northern town of Safed after the Israeli army reported 115 projectiles launched from Lebanon targeting the country on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Lebanese authorities said two persons were killed in an Israeli strike on Saturday in Jounieh, north of Beirut, the first attack on the area since Hezbollah and Israel started trading fire last year.

The strike occurred on the highway connecting Beirut to northern Lebanon, prompting a large deployment of troops and security forces.

Drone targets Netanyahu's house; strikes kill 50 in Gaza

Israeli PM's house in the Mediterranean coastal town of Caesarea targeted, though neither he nor his wife were home; Netanyahu blames Iran's proxies for the strike, vows to make them pay

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

The Israeli government said a drone targeted the Prime Minister's house on Saturday, though there were no casualties, as Iran's Supreme Leader vowed Hamas would continue its fight following the killing of the mastermind of last year's deadly October 7 attack.

Sirens wailed in Israel warning of incoming fire from Lebanon. The military said dozens of projectiles were launched. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the drone targeted his house in the Mediterranean coastal town of Caesarea, though neither he nor his wife were home.

Swift response: Israeli security forces cordon off a road near Benjamin Netanyahu's house in Caesarea in Israel on Saturday. AP

Mr. Netanyahu on Saturday said Iranian-backed groups who tried to kill him and his wife would pay "a heavy price". "Iran's proxies who tried to assassinate me and my wife today made a grave mistake," Mr. Netanyahu said.

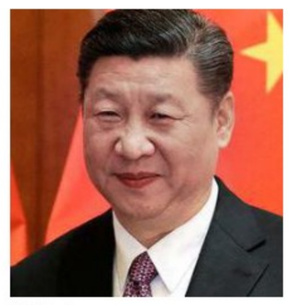
The barrage comes as Israel considers its expected response to an Iranian attack earlier this month and presses its offensives against Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Hospitals struck

In Gaza, Israeli forces fired at hospitals in the battered northern part of the Palestinian enclave, and strikes in the strip killed more than 50 people, including children, in less than 24 hours.

China's Xi calls for troops to boost their war preparedness

Agence France-Presse
SHANGHAI



Xi Jinping

Chinese President Xi Jinping called this week for troops to strengthen their preparedness for war, state media reported on Saturday, just days after Beijing staged large-scale military drills around Taiwan.

Mr. Xi made his comments while visiting a brigade of the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force on Thursday.

Mr. Xi said the military should "comprehensively strengthen training and preparation for war, (and) ensure troops have solid combat capabilities".

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has stepped up its shows of force around the self-ruled island in recent years.

War games

On Monday, Beijing had deployed fighter jets, drones, warships and coast guard vessels to encircle Taiwan – its fourth round of large-scale war games around the democratic island in just over two years.

Cuba's power grid goes offline, plunging country into darkness

Associated Press
HAVANA

Dark times: People stand in the street at night in Havana on Saturday as Cuba is hit by an island-wide blackout. REUTERS

Cuba's electrical grid went down on Friday after one of the island's major power plants failed, a day after a massive blackout swept across the Caribbean island and with no official estimate for when service will be restored.

The Cuban Energy Ministry announced that the grid had gone down hours after the Antonio Guiteras thermoelectric plant had ceased operations, at about 11 a.m. local time on Friday. It said state-owned power company UNE was using distributed generation to provide power to some areas and that a gas-fired thermoelectric plant was starting operations.

But as darkness started to fall, millions of Cubans remained without power.

Friday's supply collapse was unprecedented in modern times, aside from incidents involving intense hurricanes, like one in 2022. In addition to the Antonio Guiteras plant, Cuba has several others and it wasn't immediately clear whether or not they remained functional.

Pro-Iran protesters storm office linked to Saudi channel in Iraq

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

The MBC had aired a report referring to commanders of Tehran-backed militant groups as 'terrorists'

Supporters of pro-Iran armed groups in Iraq ransacked offices affiliated with a Saudi TV channel in Baghdad early on Saturday, two security sources said, after the broadcaster aired a report referring to commanders of Tehran-backed militant groups as "terrorists".

After midnight, between 400 and 500 people attacked the studios of a production company in Baghdad that works for the Saudi broadcaster MBC.

"They wrecked the electronic equipment, the computers, and set fire to a part of the building," an Interior Ministry source said.

He said the fire had been extinguished and the crowd dispersed by police. "Security forces are still deployed near the building," he added. There were no immediate reports of arrests.

No timeline on Ukraine war, says Putin as he lauds Modi's concern

Press Trust of India
MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said it is difficult to specify a timeline for ending the prolonged war in Ukraine but asserted that his country will win, as he appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concern over the situation.

Days ahead of the 16th BRICS Summit to be hosted by him, Mr. Putin also endorsed Mr. Modi's description of the grouping, saying the Indian leader had "aptly" noted that it is "not an anti-western one but a non-western one".

He also made it clear the grouping, which has been expanded from five initial members to include five more countries, should not be seen as a "bloc style organisation".

Mr. Modi is due to visit Kazan to attend the summit on October 22-23.

At an interaction with senior Editors from BRICS countries at his official residence Novo-Ogaryovo, about 50 km from Moscow, the Russian leader also indicated he could discuss giving Indian movies another boost when he meets Mr. Modi.

Asked whether he saw a role for India in negotiating peace between Russia and Ukraine, he referred to the concern expressed by Mr. Modi, whom he described as a "friend". He said Russia was "grateful" for this.

Mr. Modi had told Mr. Putin on phone on August 27 that he backed a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, days after he held talks with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv. He had also visited Moscow in July.

Sport

Lancaster gives Chennai Turbo Riders a strong start

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

Turbo-charged: Lancaster and Aqil had a field day. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Veteran British racer John Lancaster got Chennai Turbo Riders back in the hunt, clinching a creditable win in the penultimate round of the Indian Racing League at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Saturday.

Lancaster cashed in on pole-sitter Neel Jani's (Hyderabad Blackbirds) misfortune, who was forced to slow down due to gearbox issues while leading the race and had to settle for second. Sohil Shah of Goa Aces JA Racing took the final podium spot.

"We did a lot of work on the car to put things together, and it's a big step forward for our team," said Lancaster after the race.

In the Formula 4 Indian Open, South African Aqil Alibhai of Hyderabad Blackbirds notched his third win of the season with a near-flawless drive.

He made a daring move on pole-sitter Ruhaan Alva of Shrachi Rarh Royal Bengal Tigers and converted it into a deserving win.

In the JK Tyre-FMSCI National racing championship, T.S. Diljith of Dark Don Racing from Thrissur staved off a stiff challenge from leader Tijil Rao to win the LGB.

The results (provisional):
Indian Racing League (Race 1, Driver-A, 25 mins+1 lap): 1. Jon Lancaster (UK, Chennai Turbo Riders) 26:54.251secs, 2. Neel Jani (Switzerland, Black Birds Hyderabad) 26:54.587, 3. Sohil Shah (India, Goa Aces JA Racing) 26:54.965.

Formula 4 Indian Open (Race 1, 25mins+1 lap): 1. Aqil Alibhai (South Africa, Black Birds Hyderabad) 26:34.669, 2. Ruhaan Alva (India, Srachi Rarh Royal Bengal Tigers) 26:35.335, 3. Jaden Pariat (India, Bangalore Speedsters) 26:35.887.

JK Tyre-FMSCI National Racing: LGB Formula 4 (Race 1, 15 laps): 1. T.S. Dilith (Dark Don Racing) 19:19.910, 2. Dhruvh Goswami (MSport) 19:23.850, 3. Tijil Rao (Dark Don Racing) 19:29.574.

Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup (Race 1, 10 laps): 1. P. Yogesh P (Bengaluru) 13:42.862, 2. Johring Warisa (Umrangso) 14:00.662, 3. Johnson Saldanha (Mangaluru) 14:13.184.

Ashoka well prepared, starts the favourite in Bold Venture Plate

HYDERABAD: The five-year-old Ashoka, set to carry a top weight of 63 kg, looks well prepared to take on his rivals in the Bold Venture Plate, the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Oct. 20).

1 PEDDAPALLI PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m) maiden 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.50 p.m.: 1. Mix The Magic (5) Mukesh 60, 2. Gloria (8) Ashad Asbar 58.5, 3. Shooting Star (2) Abhay Singh 58.5, 4. Emperors Charm (3) B.R. Kumar 58, 5. Golden Unicorn (1) P. Sai K 57.5, 6. Crescent Lake (4) Md. Ekram 56.5, 7. Opera Queen (7) Mohit 56.5 and 8. Anahita (6) G. Naresh 54.5.
1. MIX THE MAGIC,
2. GLORIA,
3. SHOOTING STAR

2 HYDERABAD CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.30: 1. Terenga (8) Ashad Asbar 60, 2. Star Forever (5) P. Sai K 59.5, 3. Espionage (9) Kuldeep Sr. 4. Detective (2) Deepak Singh 58, 5. Ashwa Gajraj (1) Gaurav 57.5, 6. Kings Best (6) Akshay K 57.5, 7. Windsor (3) Shivansh 57.5, 8. Rolls Royce (7) R.S. Jodha 56.5 and 9. Coming Home (4) B. Nikhil 55.
1. KINGS BEST,
2. WINDSOR,
3. ESPIONAGE

3 PEDDAPALLI PLATE (Div. I) (1,100m) maiden 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.05: 1. Bellingham (3) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. That's My Mission (1) Mukesh 57.5, 3. Linda (2) Ashad Asbar 57, 4. Lifes Journey (8) Ajay K 56.5, 5. Tenax (-) (-), 6. Newfound Glory (6) P. Sai K 56, 7. First Lady (7) Sonu K 55, 8. Grey Sky (5) R.S. Jodha 54 and 9. Lucky Fiero (4) Surya Prakash 53.
1. BELLINGHAM,
2. LINDA,
3. THAT'S MY MISSION

4 BOLD VENTURE PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 80 and above (Cat. I) – 3.40: 1. Ashoka (1) Kuldeep Sr. 63, 2. Candy Girl (4) Md. Ekram 53, 3. Miss Maya (2) Akshay K 51.5, 4. Mireya (8) Mukesh K 50, 5. Alexina (7) Santosh Raj 50, 6. Strauss (6) B. Nikhil 50, 7. Berrettini (3) Gaurav 50 and 9. Unsung Hero (5) P. Ajeeth K 50.
1. ASHOKA,
2. CANDY GIRL,
3. MISS MAYA

5 SMT. TEEGALA SULOCHANA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) – 4.15: 1. Last Wish (8) Vivek 61, 2. N R I Superpower (9) Shivansh 58, 3. Nugget (7) Kuldeep Jr. 57.5, 4. Hugh Capet (6) B.R. Kumar 56, 5. Kancha (4) Mukesh 56, 6. Fly Tothe Stars (1) Akshay K 54.5, 7. Icicle (10) Surya Prakash 54, 8. Miss Little Angel (3) Mohit 53, 9. Hurricane Bay (5) Afroz K 52.5, 10. Tripurari (2) Sonu K 52 and 11. Delhi Heights (11) B. Nikhil 51.5.
1. N R I SUPERPOWER,
2. FLY TOTHE STARS,
3. HUGH CAPET

6 VENUS DE MILO PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 – 4.50: 1. Proud Mary (5) P. Sai K 60, 2. Shadow Fax (6) Sonu K 55.5, 3. Happy Soul (2) Surya Prakash 55, 4. Colt Pistol (3) Abhay Singh 53, 5. Wind Sprite (1) Md. Ekram 53, 6. Final Judgement (7) Akshay K 52.5, 7. Shah Of Iran (9) Rafique Sk. 52.5, 8. Hoping Star (4) Mohit 52 and 9. Power Ranger (8) Gaurav 52.
1. SHADOW FAX,
2. FINAL JUDGEMENT,
3. WIND SPRITE
Day's best: **KINGS BEST**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: All races.

CLEAR SKY, PLEASE!

Hope the rain stays away and we get a chance to chase: O'Rourke

K. MURALI KUMAR

New Zealand fast bowler Will O'Rourke, who took seven wickets in the match, stated that his side will take the chase seriously on Sunday. "I would not say it will be an easy win for us. India is a world-class team. Hopefully, the rain stays away for our sake and we get a chance to have a crack at it," O'Rourke said.

KYLE'S INFLUENCE

I have learnt a lot from Jamieson during training, says O'Rourke

K. MURALI KUMAR

Will O'Rourke revealed that training with Kyle Jamieson, another tall New Zealand pacer, has helped him. "Kyle has been in the background. I'm not sure we have actually played a game together yet. But I have learnt from him during training. Kyle is a big guy, and one of the best bowlers in the world when he gets going," he said.

HUMDINGER

India-A registers a thrilling win over Pakistan Shaheens

HOTSTAR

Tilak Varma's India-A eked out a seven-run win over Pakistan Shaheens in the Emerging Teams Asia Cup at Al Amerat on Saturday. **The scores:** India-A 183/8 in 20 overs (Abhishek 35, Prabhsimran 36, Tilak 44, Sufiyan 2/28) bt Pakistan Shaheens 176/7 in 20 overs (Yasir 33, Arafat 41, Kamboj 3/33, Rasikh 2/30, Nishant 2/15).

SMOOTH START

Thalaivas, Paltan begin campaigns with impressive performances

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tamil Thalaivas, riding on the the brilliance of Narender Kandola and Sachin, defeated Telugu Titans 44-29 to begin its Pro Kabaddi League Season 11 campaign in style in Hyderabad on Saturday. Defending champion Puneri Paltan defeated Haryana Steelers 35-25 in the second match of the day.

Second new ball swings it Kiwis' way after the Sarfaraz-Pant show

India loses the plot as the visiting team's pacers — led by Henry and O'Rourke — find their rhythm; the host slumps from 408 for three to 462 all out; NZ needs 107 to secure its first Test win in the country in 36 years

NZ IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

For a good 170 minutes, Sarfaraz Khan and Rishabh Pant dared to dream. With every exotic hit, the duo took India closer and closer to achieving the improbable.

And then the second new ball arrived as a cruel awakening. Sarfaraz and Pant were prised out, dampening India's chances of recording a famous win.

On the fifth and final day of a riveting Test, New Zealand will need to score 107 runs to take the series lead. The visitor has all ten wickets intact; India needs a miracle.

The morning session witnessed a counterattack for the ages. Sarfaraz (150, 195b, 18x4, 3x6) and Pant (99, 105b, 9x4, 5x6) crushed the New Zealand bowlers into submission with outstanding shotmaking.

Unstoppable: Sarfaraz and Pant made the New Zealand bowlers dance to their tunes. K. MURALI KUMAR

Stunning shots

There can be no better example of this utter domination than Pant, down on one knee, slog-sweeping fast bowler Tim Southee out of the stadium. Southee looked in disbelief, taking a minute to comprehend the absurdity of the stroke.

Any doubts surrounding Pant's fitness were eliminated when he walked out to bat at the start of the day. Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel was among his early victims, as Pant dealt two hammer blows.

At the other end, Sarfaraz toyed with the attack. Anything outside off was met with a dab, despite the presence of a slip, gully and third-man. There was only one winner in this game of cat and mouse, as the batter repeatedly managed to avoid the desperate catchers.

The relentless charge continued after a short rain interruption, with Pant smashing Rachin Ravindra for a six in the fourth ball after the restart.

There was one tense moment, when Pant was stranded in the middle of the pitch going for a second run. A lazy effort from fielder Devon Conway and wicketkeeper Tom Blundell kept Pant alive.

Starting proceedings with a 125-run overall deficit, Sarfaraz and Pant pulled India into the lead. Sarfaraz brought up his first Test hundred with a textbook backfoot drive, and celebrated with a jubilant sprint.

Just when India began to harbour hopes of setting a sizeable target, Sarfaraz fell to Southee.

An uppish drive, similar to the manner of his dismissal in the first essay, popped up to cover. Sarfaraz walked off to huge applause from the sizeable crowd, but the Mumbaikar will feel that he should have stayed on for longer.

A few overs later, the spectators went silent when Pant chopped William O'Rourke onto the stumps. It turned out to be a heavy blow for India.

Quick capitulation

At 433 for five, India was ahead by 77 runs, and still in with a chance. K.L. Rahul entered the arena as the local hero, but failed to impress. Rahul lasted only 16 deliveries, nicking one to the 'keeper.

Ravindra Jadeja was not much better, tying himself into a knot with an attempted pull. R. Ashwin and the tail brooked no resistance.

In a little over an hour, India had gone from a massive high to despair.

The home team was desperate to get a couple of quick wickets in the final session, but poor light forced stoppage of play after just four deliveries from Jasprit Bumrah.

India needs more inspired performances, or long spells of rain, to avoid defeat on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
46 in 31.2 overs.
NEW ZEALAND — 1ST INNINGS
402 in 91.3 overs.
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal st. Blundell b Ajaz 35 *(52b, 6x4)*, Rohit Sharma b Ajaz 52 *(63b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli c Blundell b Phillips 70 *(102b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Sarfaraz Khan c Ajaz b Southee 150 *(195b, 18x4, 3x6)*, Rishabh Pant b O'Rourke 99 *(105b, 9x4, 5x6)*, K.L. Rahul c Blundell b O'Rourke 12 *(16b, 2x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Young b O'Rourke 5 *(15b, 1x4)*, R. Ashwin lbw b Henry 15 *(24b, 1x4)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 6 *(20b)*, Jasprit Bumrah c Blundell b Henry 0 *(4b)*, Mohammed Siraj c Southee b Henry 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-7, lb-9, nb-1, w-1): 18; Total (in 99.3 overs): 462.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-72 (Jaiswal, 17.1 overs), 2-95 (Rohit, 21.5), 3-231 (Kohli, 48.6), 4-408 (Sarfaraz, 84.1), 5-433 (Pant, 88.1), 6-438 (Rahul, 90.2), 7-441 (Jadeja, 92.3), 8-458 (Ashwin, 97.3), 9-462 (Bumrah, 99.1).
NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Southee 15-2-53-1, Henry 24.3-3-102-3, O'Rourke 21-4-92-3, Ajaz 18-3-100-2, Phillips 15-2-69-1, Ravindra 6-0-30-0.
NEW ZEALAND — 2ND INNINGS (TARGET: 107)
Tom Latham (batting) 0 *(4b)*, Devon Conway (batting) 0 *(0b)*; Total (for no loss in 0.4 overs): 0.
INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 0.4-0-0-0.

South Africa and New Zealand in heavyweight clash as the world awaits a new champion

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Lavanya L
DUBAI

For the first time since 2016, the Women's T20 World Cup will finally have a new winner when South Africa and New Zealand lock horns in the summit clash at the Dubai International Stadium here on Sunday.

Both teams have wounds of a disappointing home World Cup (albeit in different formats) in their recent past – South Africa fell to Australia last year in the T20 World Cup final while New Zealand never made it past the group stage in the ODI World Cup in 2022.

Enroute to the final in the UAE, the Proteas exacted sweet revenge against Australia in the semifinal, with the latter's bid for a four-peat foiled for the second time in T20 World Cup history.

The White Ferns clinched a thrilling knockout game against West Indies to put to bed the ghosts of a loss to the same side in the 2016 edition's semifinal.

South Africa's strength has been its batting. Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits - who top the scoring charts of the tournament - have been in fine form with key contributions from Anneke Bosch, Marizanne Kapp and Annerie Derksen so far.

The bowlers have topped that with Nonkululeko Mlaba and Kapp providing economical and wicket-taking performances game after game.

New Zealand will bank on its bowling line-up once more, with Amelia Kerr - the tournament's leading wicket-taker - at the helm. Keeping an explosive batting arsenal like that of the Windies quiet would have been a big boost to the side. Eden Carson is a giggly character but has shown no mercy with the ball, keeping her economy rate low and picking up seven wickets so far.

Dubai, however, promises to be about the batters, with conditions suiting spin and seam bowlers, but the surfaces proving easier for shot making and thus seeing the bigger totals of the tournament.

Out of the 11 games played at the venue so far, chasing teams have won seven games which might weigh in when teams decide what to do if the coin favours them on Sunday.

Dubai has been infamous for dropped catches with the 'Ring of Fire' circular lighting system challenging the best of fielders in the women's game. The White Ferns and the Proteas are clean fielding sides but have seen a catch or two fall through their hands here in the Middle East.

With history on the line and plenty to play for, the team that errs least will triumph.

Let the drum-roll begin: Captains Wolvaardt and Devine with the T20 World Cup trophy at the Museum of The Future. GETTY IMAGES

> Playing the 2023 final against Australia, I think we were in two minds, especially while batting. We kind of put ourselves behind the nine ball. You're trying to catch up to a team that's always on top of its game. You have to be playing at 200%
>
> **CHLOE TRYON**

> There will never be another Devine in world cricket When I opened with her, I just watched from the other end, wishing I could hit the ball that hard. She's brought some great values to this group, making sure we care about people
>
> **SUZIE BATES**

'I simply focus on the things under my control'

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Sarfaraz Khan took his chance and ran with it. Drafted into the XI against New Zealand for the first Test here in place of an injured Shubman Gill, Sarfaraz faced the pressure to perform.

A duck on Thursday was a thing of the past when he batted in the second innings. In a knock that will be remembered for years to come, Sarfaraz put the opposition into panic mode with a brilliant 150. The question now arises – how to accommodate the form Mumbaikar in the XI when Gill is back to action?

Sarfaraz can solve this puzzle the only way he knows – making mountains of runs on both the international and domestic circuit.

Rearguard: Pant and Sarfaraz were involved in a tangle early in their partnership but didn't let it bother them. K. MURALI KUMAR

Asked how he stays motivated when he is out of the side, Sarfaraz replied, "I just keep following the same process. I have been scoring runs for the last four to five years. I simply focus on the things under my control, and do well in practice."

Comical sight

The 26-year-old was involved in a tangle with Rishabh Pant early in their partnership, when Pant survived an easy run-out chance. Sarfaraz was seen animatedly jumping up and down to catch Pant's attention and refuse the second – quite a comical sight.

"Rishabh had got struck on his knee a couple of days back. So there was a discussion that we need to run carefully. After playing a late cut, I called for two (runs).

"But I soon realised that he has an injured knee and would not be able to run fast. Therefore, I immediately said 'No' and raised my hand after the first run, but Pant kept running at me without watching me," Sarfaraz said.

Sarfaraz used the late and upper cut to great effect – a shot he practices at his home in Mumbai.

"I like playing the balls that rise high. I have a bouncy wicket back at home. I play regularly there, and the bounce easily allows me to cut the ball. They (Kiwis) were trying to ball short at me, and I simply played accordingly. It was fun," Sarfaraz said.

Bournemouth hands Arsenal its first loss of the season

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BOURNEMOUTH

Arsenal was beaten for the first time this season as William Saliba's red card played a key role in its shock 2-0 Premier League defeat at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Arsenal defender Saliba was sent off after half an hour for a professional foul on Evanilson that was initially given as a booking before being upgraded to a red card after a VAR review.

The Gunners finally cracked in the closing stages as Ryan Christie put Bournemouth ahead. Justin Kluivert's penalty sealed the deal.

Important results: Premier League: Tottenham 4 (Kulusevski 36, Bissouma 52, Areola 55-og, Son 60) bt West Ham 1 (Kudus 18); Fulham 1 (Jiminez 5) lost to Aston Villa 3 (Rogers 9, Watkins 59, Diop 69); Ipswich 0 lost to Everton 2 (Ndiaye 17, Keane 40); Manchester United 2 (Garnacho 47, Hojlund 62) bt Brentford 1 (Pinnock 45+5); Newcastle 0 lost to Brighton 1 (Welbeck 35); Southampton 2 (Archer 8, Aribo 28) lost to Leicester 3 (Buonanotte 64, Vardy 74-pen, Ayew 90+8); Bournemouth 2 (Christie 70, Kluivert 79-pen) bt Arsenal 0.

LaLiga: Alaves 2 (Martinez 6, Garcia 90+7) lost to Valladolid 3 (Sylla 17-pen, Amallah 72-pen, Tuhami 76) Athletic Bilbao 4 (Vivian 6, I. Williams 28, 30, Berenguer 55) bt Espanyol 1 (Tejero 90+2); Girona 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Oyarzabal 44).

Serie A: Como 1 (Paz 45) drew with Parma 1 (Bony 20); Genoa 2 (Pinamonti 73, 85) drew with Bologna 2 (Orsolini 37, Odgaard 56); AC Milan 1 (Chukwueze 13) bt Udinese 0.

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 2 (Bensebaini 43, Guirassy 83) bt St Pauli 1 (Smith 78); Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Andrich 25, Boniface 72) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Marmoush 16-pen); Mainz 0 lost to RB Leipzig 2 (Simons 20, Orban 37); Bayern Munich 4 (Kane 57, 60, 80, Coman 89) bt Stuttgart 0.

INBRIEF

Jorge Martin wins Australian MotoGP sprint race

Spain's Jorge Martin led from start to finish in the Australian MotoGP sprint race in Phillip Island on Saturday to extend his championship lead over title rival Francesco Bagnaia. Italian Bagnaia could only come fourth, with Marc Marquez second and Enea Bastianini was third.

India to host Asian women's handball championship

The 20th Asian women's handball championship will be staged at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi from December 1 to 10. The championship, originally scheduled in Almaty, Kazakhstan, will feature Iran, South Korea, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong and Singapore apart from India. The championship gains significance as it will be a qualification path for the World women's championship to be held in Germany and the Netherlands next year.

Three Indian footballers to train in Old Trafford

Three Indian footballers, along with two others, will undergo training at Old Trafford after winning the fourth United We Play (UWP), a grassroots initiative. Lalchhuanawma (Mizoram), Shreejal Kisku (Bhubaneswar), and Mohd. Ayan (Lucknow) were selected along with Nepal's Bhakta Bahadur Pariyar and Chanason Chaiyatham of Bangkok.

Sreejesh's India starts with win over Japan

The Indian junior men's hockey team began its campaign in the Sultan of Johor Cup with a 4-2 win over Japan in Johor on Saturday. Amir Ali (12th minute), Gurjot Singh (36th), Anand Sourabh Kushwaha (44th) and Ankit Pal (47th) scored for India. The win was welcomed with a big smile by legendary former India goalkeeper and junior team coach P.R. Sreejesh.

Suresh elected Chairman and Senior Steward of Mysore Race Club

Mr. K.N. Suresh Kumar was elected as Chairman and Senior Steward of Mysore Race Club Ltd., at a meeting held in Mysuru on October 18, 2024 till the conclusion of the 56th AGM.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 5, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.15 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs West Indies: 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.
Serie A: gxr.world, 4, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards
Formula One: United States GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Monday).

Karnataka, Kerala play the waiting game from dressing room for most of day two

27 overs of play was possible as the proceedings were called off at around 3.30 pm; the visitor moves from an overnight 88 for no loss to 161 for three

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

But for a miracle, Karnataka looks set to finish a second straight Ranji Trophy Elite Group-C match with one point after multiple spells of heavy rain washed out two of the three sessions on day two of the contest against Kerala.

At the Alur Grounds near here on Saturday, all of 27 overs of play was possible on day two, with Kerala moving from an overnight 88 for no loss to 161 for three. As the shadows lengthened, there was more precipitation, which can potentially dent chances of a full day's play on Sunday and further exhaust Karnataka's possibilities of progressing from a tough group.

In fact, for about 20 minutes prior to lunch, the players had the company of only a mild and unthreatening drizzle.

Little did they expect it to acquire monstrous properties and keep the players locked in the dressing room for the rest of the day.

The sun did come out at around 2.30 p.m., and that too in blazing fashion. The ground staff removed the covers and the super-soppers were hard at work. But at about 3.30 p.m. the umpires decided that no amount of intense sunshine will be able to dry the field in time for a few overs' play.

Damp affair: Groundstaff had to work long and hard at the Alur Grounds. N. SUDARSHAN

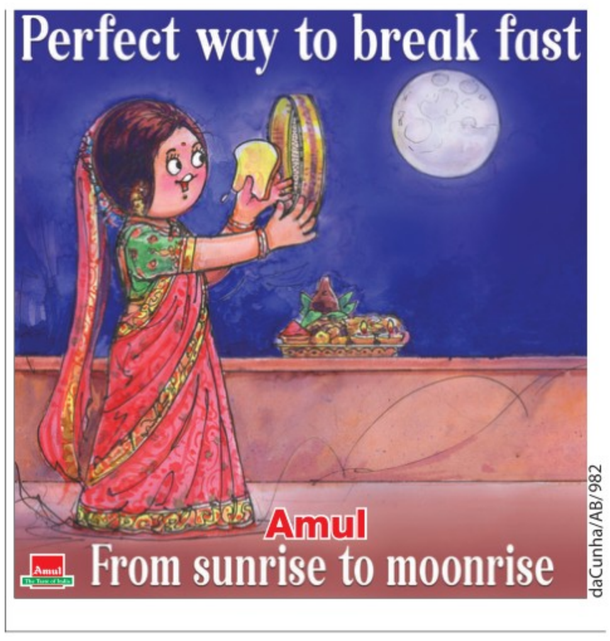
Bright start

Karnataka started the morning brightly as speedster V. Koushik had the dangerous Rohan Kunnummal (63, 88b, 10x4, 1x6) caught by R. Smaran at short-cover in the fifth over of the day. Four balls later, the compact Vathsal Govind was pinned to the crease by V. Vyshak and dismissed leg-before.

B. Aparajith (19, 58b, 3x4) and skipper Sachin Baby (23 batting, 62b, 3x4) resisted for a while by coming together for a slow but steady 50-run partnership for the third wicket. But leggie Shreyas Gopal induced a false shot from Aparajith and Vyshak completed a fine running catch from mid-on.

That brought Sanju Samson to the crease and he looked in pristine touch (15, 13b, 2x4, 1x6), smacking Shreyas for a giant slapped six over deep mid-wicket, and cutting and driving medium-pacer Vidyadhar Patil for two boundaries. But none of it could please the rain gods.

The scores: Kerala — 1st innings: Vathsal Govind lbw b Vyshak 31, Rohan Kunnummal c Smaran b Koushik 63, B. Aparajith c Vyshak b Shreyas 19, Sachin Baby (batting) 23, Sanju Samson (batting) 15; Extras (b-4, lb-6): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 50 overs): 161.
Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-94, 3-144.
Karnataka bowling: Koushik 19-8-43-1, Vidyadhar 14-3-43-0, Vyshak 11-3-34-1, Hardik 2-0-13-0, Shreyas 4-0-18-1.



RANJI SCORES — ROUND 2 (DAY TWO)

Elite: Group A: Delhi: Baroda 477/6 decl. in 150 overs (Shivalik Sharma 178, Vishnu Solanki 125, Krunal Pandya 86, Atit Sheth 53 n.o.) vs Services 74/2 in 22 overs.
Cuttack: Jammu & Kashmir 270 vs Odisha 198/5 in 69.1 overs (Govinda Poddar 87 batting).
Mumbai: Maharashtra 126 & 142/1 in 31 overs (Sachin Dhas 59 batting, Ruturaj Gaikwad 80 batting) vs Mumbai 441 in 103.1 overs (Ayush Mhatre 176, Shreyas Iyer 142, Hitesh Walunj 6/134).
Shillong: Tripura 346/6 in 74.2 overs (Sridam Paul 146, Mandeep Singh 59, Srinivas Sharath 54 batting, Manisankar Murasingh 53 batting) vs Meghalaya.
Group B: Ahmedabad: Gujarat 367 in 106 overs (Manan Hingrajia 48, Urvil Patel 48, Chintan Gaja 92, Arzan Nagwaswalla 82 n.o.) vs Andhra 137/5 in 32 overs (K.S. Bharat 78 batting).
Dharamshala: Rajasthan 334 in 95.3 overs (Yash Kothari 84, Mahipal Lomror 99, Mayank Dagar 5/85) vs Himachal Pradesh 98 in 29 overs (Rishi Dhawan 40 n.o., Deepak Chahar 5/30) & 147/2 in 39 overs (Shubham Arora 59, Prashant Chopra 49).
Dehradun: Uttarakhand 325 in 82 overs (Avneesh Sudha 89, Yuvraj Chaudhary 49, Aditya Tare 69, Tanay Thyagarajan 4/85) vs Hyderabad 244/5 in 78 overs (K. Himateja 78, Rahul Radesh 82 batting).
Puducherry: Vidarbha 283 in 96.5 overs (Yash Rathod 118, Harsh Dubey 76, Gaurav Yadav 4/65) vs Pondicherry 45/1 in 15 overs.
Group C: Bengaluru: Kerala 161/3 in 50 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 63) vs Karnataka.
Kalyani: Bengal vs Bihar. No play.
Lucknow: Haryana 431/9 in 180 overs (Ankit Kumar 77, Himanshu Rana 114, Dheeru Singh 103, Sumit Kumar 61) vs Uttar Pradesh.
Mullanpur: Punjab 277 in 95.5 overs (Salil Arora 101, Sukhwinder Singh 66) vs Madhya Pradesh 207 in 73.5 overs (Shubham Sharma 61, Rajat Patidar 90).
Group D: Guwahati: Assam 266 in 90.2 overs (Sibsankar Roy 46, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 41, Mukhtar Hussain 55) vs Chandigarh 301/5 in 78 overs (Manan Vohra 59, Raj Bawa 122 batting, Mayank Sidhu 54 batting).
Rajkot: Chhattisgarh 578/7 in 174 overs (Ayush Pandey 52, Anuj Tiwary 44, Sanjeet Desai 146, Amandeep Khare 203 batting, Eknath Kerkar 50, Shubham Agarwal 52) vs Saurashtra.
Delhi: Tamil Nadu 674/6 decl. in 158.2 overs (B. Sai Sudharsan 213, N. Jagadeesan 65, Washington Sundar 152, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 117, C. Andre Siddarth 66 n.o.) vs Delhi 43/0 in 16 overs.
Ahmedabad: Jharkhand 417 in 135.4 overs (Nazim Siddiquie 96, Virat Singh 128, Ishan Kishan 101, Himanshu Sangwan 5/94) vs Railways 19/1 in 7.1 overs.
Plate: Ahmedabad: Mizoram 247 & 32/2 in 15 overs vs Arunachal Pradesh 252 in 76 overs (Jagdish Agrawal 87, Aditya Verma 98, Joseph Lalthankhuma 4/21).
Rangpo: Sikkim 108 & 50/3 in 18 overs vs Goa 367/4 decl. in 95.4 overs (Rohan Kadam 55, Suyash Prabhudessai 54, Manthan Khutkar 104, Krishnamurthy Siddharth 130 n.o.).
Sovima: Nagaland 237 in 89.4 overs (Dega Nischal 49, Sedezhalie Rupero 57, Hokaito Zhimomi 55, Pheiroijam Jotin 4/40) & 88/2 in 31 overs (Dega Nischal 62 batting) vs Manipur 139 in 51.1 overs (Pheiroijam Jotin 58, J. Suchith 5/52).

I am absolutely keen on a Test comeback, says Shreyas

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Ever since his hundred on Test debut in November 2021, Shreyas Iyer had been unable to notch up a triple figure mark. The prolonged wait was finally over on Saturday, with the stylish batter scoring 142 against Maharashtra in a Ranji Trophy league tie here.

It had been so long since Shreyas Iyer scored a First-Class century that on Saturday, however, Shreyas flashed one of the widest smiles of the year. After all, the 35-month-long drought for a First Class ton.

"Yeah, feels special. Coming back after a very long time, obviously I was feeling a bit down with my injuries, but now getting a century after a very long time, it's a great feeling overall," a content Shreyas said at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy.

Setting goals: Shreyas is keen on making a comeback to the National Test team. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shreyas, having recovered from a back injury that troubled him for almost two years, has had an enigmatic year. While he has led his Indian Premier League franchise to a title and been a part of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy winning run, he has also had to face the ignominy of losing his place in the Test team and being stripped of a BCCI central contract.

But Shreyas has preferred to look at the positives. "You win three championships (Ranji Trophy, IPL and Irani Cup) in a year and what else can you ask for? All I see is the positive things over here and that is winning the trophy and that's what I want," he said.

With the central contract episode combining with exclusion from the Test squad, there have been murmurs about Shreyas' commitment and drive towards wearing India's whites. Asked whether he is driven towards playing the longest format, pat came the reply. "Absolutely. That's why I have been playing. I mean, or else I would have given a reason and sat out," he said.

"I am absolutely keen for a comeback, but yeah, as we say, control the controllables and as always to keep performing and keep participating as much as possible and also to see to it that my body is in the best shape. So I will take the best decision possible according to that."

Tejasvi's spell puts SSRVM in last four

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Tejasvi Sharma's five for 20 helped Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir (SSRVM) defeat Chrysalis High, Yelahanka, by five runs and enter the semifinals of the KM Ramprasad Shield under-16 School third division tournament.

The scores (quarterfinals):
Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, B-87 141 in 28.5 overs (Tanish Singhal 25, Krishna 3/25, Supraket Das 3/3) bt Chrysalis High, Yelahanka 136 in 28.2 overs (Arya Naveen 34, Tejasvi Sharma 5/20).

Vydehi School of Excellence 195/8 in 30 overs (Tarun Balamurugan 57, Gagan Karnati 27, Akilan 41, Anson D'Souza 3/39) bt AC School 167/7 in 30 overs (Roger Aranha 25, Anson D'Souza 29, Gnan 41).

Vidya Bharathi ES 144 in 27.4 overs (Vishruth 27, Rohit Raj 47, Kshiteesh 3/17) lost to Vidyaniketan School, B-24 146/6 in 22 overs (Rahul 27, Nihal 31, Mithil 46, Karthik 3/20).

NPS, B-8 97 in 25.2 overs (Vallabh 33) lost to NPS, Yeshwanthpur 101/2 in 15.4 overs (Sasmith 27, Ansh 51).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Parvez and Preemal lift respective titles

Parvez Ahmed and J. Preemal emerged the men's and women's singles winners in the 9th K. Damodar & Co Karnataka State Tenpin Bowling Championships being currently held in Bengaluru.

Parvez shocked top seed Akaash Ashok Kumar by 73 pins, while J. Preemal put it across Hitasha by 95 pins.

Nitture to meet Tanisha in final

Akanksha Nitture will meet Tanisha Kashyap in the final of the SKME ITF Open $15,000 women's tennis tournament.

The results (semifinals):
Singles: Akanksha Nitture bt Vaishnavi Adkar 7-5, 6-3, 6-2; Tanisha Kashyap bt Carolann Delaunay 6-1, 7-5; **Doubles:** Humera Baharmus & Pooja Ingale bt Sai Samhitha & Diva Bhatia 7-6(2), 6-4.

All smiles: Parvez and Preemal, the champions at the 9th K. Damodar & Co State tenpin bowling. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka runs riot against J & K

Karnataka smashed 13 past Jammu & Kashmir in the Senior Women's National Football Championship in Nadia, West Bengal.

The result:
Karnataka 13 (Hema Munda 1, 12, 59, Anaya Susan Thomas 44, Arushi Santhosh 45+7, 84, Rivka Ramji 51, Afreen Peerbhoy 58, Maitrey Palasamudram 69, Tanusree Roy 82, 90+1, 90+2, Tanvi Nair 90+4) bt Jammu & Kashmir 0.

Rain plays spoilsport in Karnataka vs UP T20 match

The BCCI Senior Women's T20 Trophy match between Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday was called off because of rain.

Mohun Bagan romps to win over East Bengal

ISL

Aneesh Dey
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant grabbed bragging rights in the season's first Kolkata Derby, beating arch-rival East Bengal 2-0 in an ISL clash at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on Saturday.

Jamie Maclaren announced his name on the biggest stage in Indian football, scoring the opening goal before Dimitrios Petratos scored from the spot for Bagan's second.

MBSG started strongly, enjoying greater possession in the opening minutes.

The Mariners had to wait till the 18th minute for its first major opportunity. Greg Stewart found Maclaren with an excellent low cross from the edge of the box but the Australian was denied.

First strike: Maclaren starred in Mohun Bagan's victory in the Kolkata derby. DEBASISH BHADURI

The Red and Gold lacked a proper game plan, which was evident from their drab style of football that lacked any attacking opportunities. New coach Oscar Bruzon was a helpless spectator as the EBFC backline got peppered with systematic attacking moves by MBSG.

In the 41st minute, the EBFC defence finally crumbled under pressure. Stewart passed the ball to Manvir on the right flank, who found Maclaren with a measured low cross inside the box.

The Australian timed his run to perfection and found the angle to beat Gill at his near-post with a first-time finish.

Bagan missed an opportunity to score in the 64th minute. In the 89th minute, Petratos won a penalty after being fouled by Gill inside the box and made no mistake in converting from the spot.

The results: East Bengal 0 lost to Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Maclaren 41, Petratos 89-pen).
In Margao: Goa 1 (Armando Sadiku 55-pen) lost to Mumbai City FC 2 (Nikolaos Karelis 20, Yoell van Nieff 41).

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